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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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FORMATION OF SOUTHERN CONE POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN MEXICO

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Mar 82 pp 4-A, 31-A

[Article by Mario Ruiz Redondo]

[Text] The people's political parties and organizations of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, announced yesterday to EXCELSIOR that they have joined in a Union of Southern Cone Popular Movements, that they will struggle for the recovery of democracy and the full sovereignty of their countries, and for the elimination of all forms of repression against the people and of the reactionary economic patterns of the Chicago School (Escuela de Chicago).

Also, since several South American dictatorships and governments plan to contribute military forces to the U.S. imperialist plans for aggression in Central America, they commit themselves to the fight and to the mobilization of their peoples in order to make impossible the accomplishment of this fratricidal goal. They do not discard the possibility of sending forces to support the revolutionary movements in El Salvador and Guatemala if the revolutionary movements in those countries request it.

Among the members of this new common front are the Argentine Montonero Peronist Movement, which, like the Chilean Leftist Revolutionary Movement, had an active role in the victory of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua in its struggle to overthrow Somoza.

The realization of this common front came about last weekend in Cuernavaca. The ceremony was attended by: Juan Ferreyra, leader of the Convergencia Democratica of Uruguay, consisting of socialists, communists, "blancos" and members of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties.

Eduardo Firmenich, supreme leader of the Montonero Peronist Movement; for Peru, the United Left with its president Alfonso Barrantes and Carlos Roca, leader of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], the political party with the greatest tradition in that country.

Also, for Bolivia, Felix Rostigliosi, representing Hernan Siles Suazo, and Javier Torres Goitia; delegations of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left and the First Socialist Party which was led by Marcelo Quiroga Santacruz, who was assassinated.

Anselmo Sule, as president of the Radical Party, was responsible for representing the popular Chilean movements. He is also the vice president

of the Socialist International and vice president of the COPPPAL and serves as the Chilean leftist coordinator.

Solidarity With Cuba and Nicaragua

In their Cuernavaca declaration, the principal leaders of the Southern Cone opposition groups expressed their active solidarity with the revolutionary struggles carried on by the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala for true national independence, effective democracy and social justice.

"We express our complete solidarity with the peoples and governments of Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba, faced with the threats of military aggression publicly expressed by the government in Washington and its closest allies.

"We support the spirit of the proposals by the Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front for an overall political solution to the situation in El Salvador.

"We support the Franco-Mexico declaration and the specific contents of the proposals made by the President of Mexico Lopez Portillo and the proposal by the Permanent Confederation of Latin American Political Parties that a negotiated political solution be sought in the conflicts in Central American and Caribbean regions."

Other points were:

"We express our commitment to support the principles and practice of the unity of popular forces at the national regional and Latin American levels.

"In each of the nations, the most complete unity of all the democratic, popular and revolutionary forces is the only sure way to strengthen the will for freedom, which our people have so often expressed, and to consolidate the gains in freedom against which the counterrevolutionary forces have organized the present regimes which rule by force.

"It is also our wish, to maintain close contact and mutual support among all the democratic, popular and revolutionary political forces in our countries and to acknowledge our liberating and integrating role, bequeathed to us by our founding fathers, in support of the Great Fatherland of Latin America, reaffirming the prospects for Latin American unity as the ultimate goal of our work and our struggles."

The declaration, given to this newspaper in an exclusive interview, also expresses the condemnation of this common front of the "International and antipopular dictatorships in Argentian, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. It repudiates their economic projects, their antidemocratic political regimes and their repressive methods which are accompanied by the most horrible violations of human rights and indescribable economic corruption."

It denounces the collaboration of the Argentine Government with the Reagan government's projects for military intervention in Central America.

"We know about the participation of our dictatorships, especially that of Argentina, whose armed forces are the main allies of the U.S. Government in carrying out this strategy."

A delegation of the Latin American Human Rights Association was present at the meeting.

9204

CSO: 3010/1368

GREATER EFFORTS URGED TO END ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Mar 82 p 3

Editorial: "Economic Blockade"

[Text] When the democratic process was interrupted in 1980, one of the immediate consequences was the suspension of aid--development credits and technical assistance--from the United States and the nations of Western Europe. Given the decisive weight these countries have in international credit institutions, the latter also reduced their cooperation with us to a minimum.

The official reaction to these measures was clearly provincial, in that people lost all perspective: Some thought that just as anything could be done on national territory, so was anything possible on a world level. In fact, when they said they were acting in defense of Bolivia, they were actually damaging it and weakening it until we reached the critical situation we are in now. The defiant speeches have meant--as was inevitable--that later we were forced to accept conditions which, under normal circumstances, could have been corrected. Is this working for the good of Bolivia, for its dignity? Every citizen should give the answer he considers the fairest.

In recent times, international agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank have opened up a bit. This is due to changes that have taken place in Bolivia in the past few months. But the attitude of governments remains adamant: the United States makes vague promises, but it will not make any firm commitment; as for Western Europe, nothing is said simply because there is nothing to say.

No effective arguments have been found to demand a change in these attitudes. When it was a question of diplomatic recognition, there were protests to those who denied such recognition, claiming that Bolivia had complied with all the requirements stipulated by International Law (although there were plenty who argued that this was not true, because the government did not meet its obligations in terms of human rights and the repression of the drug traffic). But aid depends on good will, on agreements that can be signed freely, and on some commonality of ideology and interests. That is why, for example, the United States gives no aid to Cuba.

The observations that were made and given as reasons for suspending government assistance were principally two: the serious violation of human rights and the failure to duly combat the drug traffic (it may be recalled that

there was an international smear campaign that affected all Bolivians, and went so far as to implicate some officials in these criminal activities).

When Carter was still president, the United States and the Western European nations gave top priority to the violation of human rights. They felt it was impossible to aid a government that was guilty of murders, torture, unlawful arrests, the prohibition of elections, the elimination of the freedom of expression, etc. No one wanted to appear friendly with regimes that were criticized from almost every side. Although now it is acknowledged that the situation has improved, the hardline, closed position is still in effect, because violations are still reported.

As for the drug traffic, there was a change. Some high officials thought that the triumph of Reagan and their own anti-Communist attitudes would be enough to unleash a torrent of U.S. aid. That illusion did not last long. There was simply a change in priorities: The United States put the repression of the drug traffic in first place, and since it was criticized for ignoring human rights, it has now begun to insist on them again. The problem lies in the fact that the United States does not appear to believe that Bolivia has done anything to prove a concrete and effective desire to suppress this illicit trade and to punish those responsible--the sharks, not the sardines, as the saying goes.

These allegations persist. Since there is nothing illegal or immoral about such demands, for the Bolivian people agree that human rights should be completely observed and that the drug traffic should be combatted, what we must do is work to achieve that end. It has been and will continue to be embarrassing for Bolivia to argue that we do not have to meet freely contracted commitments to respect human rights and combat the drug traffic. In complying with those obligations, not only would we strengthen our prestige, but we would also open the way for aid that we need.

8926
CSO: 3010//1383

GOVERNMENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF CENTRAL BANK PROCEDURES

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] Executives of the Central Bank of Bolivia are under investigation by order of the General Comptrollership of the Republic, and must provide all relevant documentation within 20 days, because of the improper sale of \$129,123,677.59 in foreign currency.

According to investigations conducted by the General Comptrollership of the Republic, between 31 July 1981 and 4 February of this year, the Central Bank of Bolivia authorized the banks of the commercial system to sell foreign reserves to the private sector for a total of \$179,811,590.13, of which only \$50,687,912.54 was sold with documentation. Thus, no discharge documentation was presented for the sum of \$129,123,677.59.

This information was revealed at a press conference by the General Comptroller of the Republic, Gen Antonio Obando Rojas, along with officials of that watchdog agency, the minister secretary of the President's Office, and the under-secretary of justice.

Obando Rojas began by stating that the government of Gen Torrelio, fulfilling its obligation to raise moral standards, has put into motion the investigation and auditing of the Central Bank, as a result of accusations that foreign currency reserves were sold under irregular circumstances.

These investigations took place at the Central Bank itself over a period of 20 days. The bank provided the documentation relevant to the movement of currency, in accordance with the following chart:

Summary of Purchases and Sales, from 1 August 1981 to 4 February 1982

<u>Detail</u>	<u>Dollars In</u>	<u>Dollars Out</u>
Fiscal Sector	373,117,134.57	255,494,216.11
Banking Sector	29,860,996.76	179,811,590.13
International Agencies	130,914,553.54	103,027,616.15
Total	533,892,684.87	538,333,422.39

The Comptroller of the Republic emphasized that the investigations focused on the "Banking Sector" category, which showed outlays of \$179,811,590.13. The Central Bank presented no documentation for this figure, and it is what prompted the subpoena for the corresponding documents, to be presented within 20 days. The investigation order covers the following Central Bank officials: Guido Salinas Vasquez, Milton Paz Cardozo, Jaime Castro Subieta, Luis Valda Aguirre, Enrique Garcia Ayaviri, Dionisio Villegas Leano, Venerando Escobar Heredia, Jorge Cervantes Alcazar, Guido Sandoval Sandoval, Martha L. de Thames, Jaime Cordova Cardozo, Armando Oporto Crespo, Jacobo Angulo Bacarreza, Jaime Sandi Gumucio and Mario Carvajal Rojas.

The Comptroller also stated that by order of the president of the republic, the investigations and auditing of the Central Bank will take place on a continuing basis, and will cover everything as far back as 1979, in the city of La Paz as well as all the agencies in the interior.

Presidential Order

Obando Rojas noted that "from the investigations and audits, it has been concluded that at no time did the president of the republic or high officials of the central government issue orders to sell foreign currency reserves during the period under audit."

Gen Obando Rojas indicated that as soon as the accusations were made by the Base Committee of the Central Bank, the latter tried to terminate the audit on the same day it began, by delivering a file with documents identifying the accusations (see Annex 3A on page 21). This attempt, stressed the comptroller, was rejected, and all the documentation on the sale of foreign reserves was demanded.

Finally, Obando Rojas reiterated that Dante Pino, a member of the inter-bank Base Committee, threatened a strike if the Comptrollership's auditing committee delayed its investigation.

Summary of Audit

The summary of the movement of currency is as follows:

1) The Central Bank authorized the sale of foreign reserves between July 1981 and 4 February of this year, for a total of \$179,811,590.13, and presented:

Complete documentation for: \$32,300,986.62

Partial documentation for: \$13,842,482.88

Authorized and completed requirements for non-essential imports: \$1,665,112.47

Sale of foreign reserves to private individuals and businesses on instructions from high bank officials: \$2,482,138.09

Sale of foreign reserves with express authorization by bank executives: \$397,192.48

Without documentation: \$129,123,677.59

It should be noted that the Central Bank reported that the documentation requested, which prompted the order, can be found at the banks that belong to the system.

Sanctions

When asked about the sanctions that will be imposed for this crime, Gen Obando Rojas stated that in the first place, the order automatically removes the individuals from their positions. The undersecretary of justice stressed that once the proper steps have been taken and an indictment has been handed down, the trial will begin along with the other legal proceedings required by the Penal Code. That process will determine the people involved and the corresponding sanctions.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BOLIVIA

STRIKING CENTRAL BANK EMPLOYEES PROTEST OFFICIAL INQUIRY

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Apr 82 p 8

[Text] The national banking system, with the exception of the State Bank, yesterday suspended transactions by the public throughout the nation as a result of the indefinite strike called by the employees of the Central Bank.

The State Bank was also to suspend service to the public today if operations are not resumed at the Central Bank, according to an official report.

Banks were unable to provide services yesterday because they were unable to obtain funds legally due to the paralyzation of the institution that issues money.

The employees of the Central Bank called an indefinite strike in protest against a report by the General Comptrollership of the Republic linking authorities and employees of that bank to alleged irregular sales of foreign reserves.

As of yesterday, no negotiations to resolve the conflict had been formally begun.

The position of the Central Bank was backed up by the Inter-Bank Committee of La Paz, which declared a 48-hour state of emergency. A communique from that committee denounces "the incalculable damage inflicted on the Fatherland by placing the Central Bank of Bolivia in an embarrassing position before the world, which will prevent it from obtaining the credit that is urgently needed to nip the current crisis in the bud." The document asks that the intervention in the Central Bank be suspended, and that the investigation order against its officials be annulled. Finally, it reiterates its call for the full observance of democratic liberties.

For its part, the Labor Confederation of Bank Employees and Related Workers, in a communique signed by Edilberto Gutierrez and Omar Velasco, declares a "national emergency," and threatens to call an indefinite strike "in case there are any arrests or dismissals of our fellow directors or rank-and-file members."

Statements supporting the Central Bank employees also came from the Bolivian Labor Federation, with the signatures of Gonzalo Guzman, Victor Lima, Jose

Maria Palacios and Edgardo Vasquez; and from the Worker Federation of La Paz, signed by Humberto Ochoa, Jose Checa and Walter Delgadillo. The latter document states that the Comptrollership "is trying to punish innocent employees, who have no decision-making powers, while it allows those responsible for the fraudulent acts being denounced, to go unpunished."

Finally, the Local University Federation, in a communique signed by Henry Oporto Castro, supports the employees of the Central Bank, and states that all the irregularities claimed will be overcome once and for all only by means of "a political solution through an agreement among all Bolivians."

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MINING, METALLURGICAL EXPORT FIGURES SHOW 13.3 PERCENT DECLINE IN 1981

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Mar 82 p 3

[Text] The value of mining and metallurgical exports in 1981 dropped by 13.3 percent with respect to the figure for the previous year, according to the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy.

In 1981, the official value of exports from the mining sector came to a total of US \$556,045,854, some \$85 million less than in 1980, when the total was more than \$641 million.

The official data for the entire period confirm the downward trend of the value of the principal exports from this country. This phenomenon had not been observed since early 1981.

The drop in the international price of tin, caused primarily by a contraction of demand for that metal, is the fundamental reason for the fall in the value of mining exports.

This situation is worrisome to both state and private mining officials, because despite many problems, last year national producers managed to surpass 1981 production figures.

In 1980, 22,530 fine metric tons of tin were exported; in 1981 the amount exported rose to 24,250 tons, a 7.6 percent increase. This did not make up for the negative effect of the lower price, however.

Last year, the value of tin exports reached \$343 million, of which 80 percent corresponded to exports of metallic tin smelted at the Vinto metallurgical complex; the remainder corresponded to exports of tin concentrates and alloys.

Tin exports continue to be the principal component of the mining and metallurgical exports; last year they accounted for 62 percent of the total value.

Among all the mining exports of last year, silver was in second place with 13 percent (\$71.6 million).

Next comes zinc, 7 percent; antimony, 6 percent; and last, in smaller proportions, copper, lead, tungsten, bismuth and non-metallic minerals.

For this year, further increases are predicted for national mining exports. But the uncertainty that plagues international markets makes it difficult to foresee what will happen to the value of those exports.

Among the exporters, tin foundries have garnered first place, with about 50 percent of the total value. Next comes the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, medium mining enterprises, small mining enterprises, and other lesser exporters.

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BRIEFS

IMPORTS DROP SHARPLY--The CIF value of Bolivian imports in February of 1982 dropped to \$40.15 million, a 47.32 percent decrease with relation to the January figure, which was \$76.22 million, according to data provided by the Department of Economic Statistics of the National Statistics Institute (INE). Of the total amount of imports, \$4.7 million correspond to goods and services classified as basic; \$21.01 million to semi-manufactured goods; \$50.3 million to manufactured goods; and \$0.41 million to miscellaneous goods. "Sixty-six percent, or two-thirds, was related to manufactured goods imports," according to the data from the classification done by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). During February, all groups experienced a real drop in the CIF value of imports. Basic goods represented \$2.5 million; semi-manufactured goods, \$11.07 million; manufactured goods, \$26.5 million; and only \$80,000 for miscellaneous goods. In this month, manufactured goods accounted for 66 percent as well. The structure of imports, however, remains constant for the first two months, according to the UNCTAD classification. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Apr 82 p 10] 8926

TIN PRODUCTION UP--National production of tin in 1981 reached 29,800 fine metric tons, a 9.22 percent increase over the previous year's production. A report by the Office of Economic Studies and Foreign Trade of the Mining Ministry notes the increase in tin production, which is especially significant after 3 consecutive years of decline, putting Bolivia in fourth place among the world's principal tin producers. Despite the slight recovery, there are still depressive factors in national mining production. The report says, "In general, productivity continues to undergo the depressive phase begun in 1979, a phenomenon which is having an adverse effect on the national economy. There are several reasons behind this fact, the most important being: the gradual depletion of the deposits being exploited; the small amount of public and private investment, oriented toward prospecting, exploration and the development of new deposits; the obsolescence of the machinery and equipment used in the productive process; and political-social problems that have arisen, particularly in the last 3 years." In 1979, national tin production dropped to 27,648 fine metric tons; in 1980 it fell to 27,271 tons. The Bolivian Mining Corporation (COMIBOL) continued to account for nearly 70 percent of national production, followed by medium mining enterprises, with 21 percent, and then by small enterprises. Official statistics include much of the production of mining cooperatives in the data

assigned to COMIBOL. The following official chart shows the development of national tin production by sector, for the last 3 years:

Tin Production in Fine Metric Tons

Year	<u>COMIBOL</u>	<u>Medium Mining</u>	<u>Small Mining</u>	<u>Total</u>
1979	19,010	5,937	2,701	27,648
1980	18,621	5,880	2,770	27,271
1981	20,828	6,334	2,638	29,800

Official plans call for production exceeding 30 metric tons in 1982 [as published]. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Mar 82 p 11] 8926

CSO: 3010/1383

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM FALKLAND ISLANDS CONFRONTATION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 82 p 5-A

["Clock" column by Daniel Samper Pizano: "As an Old Journalist"]

[Text] The hot Malvinas Islands situation is one which, sooner or later, will have to be dealt with in a traumatic or civilized manner by all colonialist enclaves in the world.

The immediate circumstances which in this case caused the crisis to break out should be sought in the economic ruin facing Argentina and the military dictatorship's interest in seeking arguments of social distraction and national unity. However, this was merely the detonator. The powder keg is something else. It is the presence of England in a territory which does not belong to it, which was taken away from defenseless Argentina over a century ago by means of force and whose return to the legitimate owner England has been unable to negotiate well or in time.

The Malvinas must be returned to Argentina by virtue of the same historical law which returned the Panama Canal to the hands of the Panamanians and which will cause the return of Gibraltar to the Spanish and Guantanamo--Cuban territory occupied by an American military base--to the Cubans.

It should be accepted, therefore, that the anachronic scenario which is being played out today in the extreme southern part of America--with British destroyers armed to the teeth en route to Argentina, test blackouts of cities and Argentine bombers ready to take off--is in large part the responsibility of the English. They have never heeded the peaceful claims of Argentina, have failed to understand the insulting significance of their presence 600 kilometers from the coast and were unable to handle the recent conflict which resulted in an armed invasion. The solutions of self-determination of the islanders proposed by England are absurd. First, because what was at stake was not the sovereignty of the islands vis-a-vis England but rather Argentina's sovereignty over a territory of which it was divested by force. And, second, because the submission of the fate of the Malvinas to a plebiscite of its inhabitants, almost all of whom are British descendants, Anglo-Saxons by culture and English by language, who have been taught to be contemptuous of Argentines ("Animals!" they shouted in chorus at the Che athletes during the 1966 World Cup Soccer Tournament) is playing with marked cards.

For a thousand reasons, therefore, the Malvinas should return to the Argentines. The mere fact that the swift British warships require 3 weeks to reach here illustrates quite well how far from England's geography and its public opinion what they call "Falkland Islands" are.

What is absurd is the way Argentina has attempted to reclaim its sovereignty over the islands by means of a military adventure born, as I have indicated, of the desperation of a government that has led the national economy into bankruptcy, inspired by the neocapitalist primers of the recalcitrant School of Chicago. Having exhausted the pyrrhic support afforded by internal repression against a dissatisfied populace, the regime decided to resort to the dangerous final expedient of foreign war to bring together national feelings and to divert increasing opposition to the disastrous handling of finances.

A certain amount of compassionate admiration is produced by the sight of Argentine diplomats running the bases in the United Nations and the Organization of American States, in the foreign ministries of all the American countries and on all the European television channels in search of a posteriori solidarity to avoid military confrontation. If this effort had been exerted before the invasion, Latin America certainly would have closed around Argentina in the same way that it closed around Panama in the diplomatic rewinning of its canal, not to mention the Third World countries which would have had difficulty refusing to support such a just cause.

Now, of course, we have to put an end to the spectacle of two countries girding for a battle whose action could be like old news reports of World War II. Surely the UN will send a peace-keeping force to occupy the islands while the Argentines and English hold interminable dialogs about their sovereignty. That would be the only way to seek a solution, without shaming ourselves in the eyes of the Martians who at this moment are looking at us fearfully through gigantic telescopes.

Mankind should learn something from this episode: on the one hand, it is the need to promptly and in a civilized manner dismantle the remaining colonialist enclaves still existing on earth. There has been repeated friction over the British presence on Gibraltar, and one of these days Guantanamo could produce an international headache laden with nuclear forebodings.

Another worthwhile lesson is that of demonstrating to governments the risks entailed in resorting to confrontations with other countries as a recourse calculated to bring about internal cohesion. The Nicaraguan Government committed this error with Colombia, and the minority government of Rafael Caldera in Venezuela also made this mistake, with consequences for which we are still paying.

I think that at this point it is proper to acknowledge that Turbay Ayala's administration, in spite of its mistakes in the handling of foreign policy, has been exemplarily prudent and responsible. With the internal problems facing him, he could well have yielded to the temptation of responding with some kind of madness to the Nicaraguan provocations or could have poured more fuel on the anti-Venezuelan fire, whose flames are increasing spontaneously. However, he did not do so. And this is something for which we Colombians should thank Turbay Ayala and his foreign affairs staff.

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL FOR PEACE BY CLERGYMEN

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 82 pp 1-A, 13-A

[Article by Gloria Valencia Diago]

[Text] From Guatemala to Caqueta, the Catholic bishops of this agitated Latin America region appealed for peace based on justice during their Good Friday sermons. The clergymen denounced the situations prevailing under various guises in this conglomerate of countries, ranging from endless killings between soldiers and guerrillas in El Salvador, to administrative corruption, concentration of wealth, totalitarianism, alienation, violation of freedoms and intervention in the private lives and consciences of the people.

The voice of the Church, which was manifested in The Seven Words sermons on the past Good Friday, was a voice of alarm and anguish. It made an urgent appeal to consciences to arrive at quick solutions.

The president of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia, Monsignor Mario Revollo Bravo, emphasized "the madness and disorder pervading the contemporary world, with a terrifying increase in hatred and violence."

"Mankind is moving toward ruin, and the world is on the eve of unpredictable events, while social injustice is hitting bottom," said the archbishop of Tunja, Monsignor Augusto Trujillo Arango.

Monsignor Dario Castrillon, bishop of Pereira, spoke of "the violence of the imperialisms which are staking their power on the tragedy of the civilian populations."

"Greater attention should be given to the Indian communities which on the one hand are the victims of the neglect of authorities and on the other hand the easy prey of demagogies and agitators," the archbishop of Popayan, Samuel Silverio Buitrago, pleaded.

In the meantime, from convulsed Caqueta, the bishop of Florencia, Monsignor Jose Luis Serna Alzate, noted, "Egotism and pride in persons and key peace organizations, refusing to step down from their pedestals of prestige, make the road to peace seem dismal."

All the church speakers were in agreement on a harsh and objective evaluation of what is going on in their districts, in the world and on an appeal for peace.

Increase in Violence

"It appears that the law of the jungle and the dominance of the strongest have been imposed upon the world," said Monsignor Mario Revollo Bravo, president of the Episcopal Conference and archbishop of Pamplona, who spoke last over the Sutatenza Radiobroadcasting Station.

Using the sentence: "I place my soul in your hands" as his point of departure, Monsignor Revollo said, "Contemporary man, in his conceit, turns his back on God and places his faith in the advances of science, attempts to be self-sufficient and has even come to believe that he is a superman, imbued with materialist ideology.

"The result of this madness has led mankind through tortuous fields, that is obvious," he said. "One does not have to be very perceptive to realize that there is disorder in the contemporary world, in countries which boast of a high degree of development, as well as in those which are still making an effort to attain this development; that violence, hatred and bitterness have reached a terrifying level, with a shameful toll of lives cut short, property destroyed, among those who should treat one another as brothers since they are sons of the same God. Words, actions and persons are impregnated with regrettable aggressiveness.

"Unfortunately, this is not a negative view; it is the truth which we are experiencing and which is visible in contemporary life. The reason is obvious in the light of Christian faith. When man becomes omnipotent and believes he is the master of his own destiny he stops placing confidence in God and, therefore, in his fellow men." "At times," he concluded, "we ask ourselves whether it is necessary for this conceited and arrogant man to reach even deeper levels of tragedy before reacting to his own delirium. I hope to God that this will not be the sad fate of mankind and that what we are experiencing and suffering will be enough to bring us back to God."

Conscientious Voting

In his speech over the Sutatenza Radiobroadcasting Station, Monsignor Dario Castrillon, bishop of Pereira, talked about the various forms of violence being experienced by the world; "the martyrdom and destruction used by the government to silence the poor in Poland; the chaos in Guatemala and El Salvador; the repressiveness of the capitalist regimes which is not absent from Colombia; the enslaving actions of Nicaragua, Russia or Cuba; and the violence of the imperialists who are staking their power on the tragedy of the civilian populations."

"The hunger of the Colombian citizen," Monsignor Castrillon said, "is the hunger for peace without oppressors, without exclusive beneficiaries of the unjust concentration of wealth, peace without terrorism, without ambushes,

without political prisoners, without arrogance or defiance, peace in dialog, in just laws and in the just application of the laws. Peace in national brotherhood without subjection to foreign imperialist interests and peace in the real impartiality of those who are in power."

The bishop of Pereira asked for an end to the subversion-repression dialectic on the basis of effective attention to the great sufferings of the Colombian people. A serious political commitment which affirms that one of the major causes of poverty is to be found in the disorganization of the state and in the way in which power is exercised. Finally, he called for freedom to vote in the upcoming elections for the candidate who in good conscience is the best man to ensure the country's future.

A Clouded Picture

The bishop of Cucuta, Monsignor Pedro Rubiano, said that the kingdom of God is within man when he accepts the Creator as his father, establishes fraternal relations with other men and holds his own dignity in high esteem as well as that of his fellow man.

On the subject of peace, which was also a central theme of his speech, the prelate asked all Catholics to make a personal commitment so that all Colombians will commit themselves to profound change in: public morality, socio-economic structures and the situation of injustice. "Certainly," he added, "the picture is cloudy and the difficulties are great. However, let us not forget that the mercy and love of God are also great."

Peasants and Settlers the Victims

The bishop of Florencia, Monsignor Jose Luis Serna Alzate, said, "Pride and egotism are making it difficult for men to come together." He asked all key personnel in the peace process to come down from their pedestals and to seek an effective reconciliation.

Describing the situation of violence in Caqueta, he said that religion has been converted into the epicenter of a cruel and ruthless struggle between the army and the guerrilla force in which the brunt is borne by the peasants and settlers situated between both lines of fire and suffering the abuses of both sides.

The path to peace is strewn with difficulties: dismal afternoons, sleepless nights and ill-fated days of terrible expectation on the part of our beloved peasants, which many are incapable of understanding.

To conclude his speech, he made a fervent appeal to the parties in the dispute, calling upon their Christian conscience to end the bloodbath and uncertainty and to make way for the desired peace.

For a Great Family of Brothers

The archbishop of Tunja, Monsignor August Trujillo Arango, who for 25 consecutive years has delivered the Seven Words via Caracol, dedicated his sermon to peace.

In several departures from his sermon, Monsignor Trujillo Arango referred to peace in one way or another. "Where brotherhood among men is scorned, peace is ruined at the base. Peace is the mirror of true, modern and victorious mankind above all deterioration. It is worth struggling and suffering to create a large family of brothers: the world. And a very big home of friends: the earth, with no other arms but respect, pardon and love."

The prelate expressed his concern about the future of mankind. "The world," he said, "is living on the verge of unforeseeable events, although men do not want war and are seeking peace. In spite of the blood of millions of men, unheard of suffering, useless massacres and the frightful ruins left by war and despite the desire to change the future history of the world, mankind is moving toward ruin."

"Social injustice," he added, "is monstrous; it touches everyone deeply and calls upon men of good will to take action which will give hope." He went on to say that the country is asking sacrifices of everyone but is making a special appeal to the new generations and in particular "to the builders of the society that should develop and implement programs which can effectively resolve social problems: lack of housing, the high cost of living, speculation, the cost of education and unemployment so that relief may be given to the peasant, laborer, worker, public and private employee and the young who dream of justice in a better future."

Failure To Govern

Representatives of the Colombian Catholic Church here advocated concrete actions in the search for peace, security and social justice of real proportions to avoid what they called the "definitive breakdown of the country."

Several bishops delivered their Seven Words sermons over the RCN broadcasting network. They also came out for a frontal rejection of the guerrilla struggle, abortion and civil marriage.

They also strongly criticized the state for the so-called "failure to govern" [desgobierno], the political class and Congress.

The bishop of Santa Marta, Javier Naranjo Villegas, said that there is an increasing trend toward an appetite for power. "An effort should be made to reevaluate our concepts of the real objective of life, which is not specifically the search for happiness through money or political power," Monsignor Naranjo said.

Monsignor Jose de Jesus Pimiento, bishop of Manizales, said that abortion and civil marriage should not be approved in Colombia because they contribute to the destruction of society.

He criticized beauty pageants and referred to what he called "the commercial exploitation of the female body."

Monsignor Dario Castrillon Hoyos, bishop of Pereira, said that thousands of Colombians harassed by poverty and injustice are living in a situation of distress.

"There are many things to change. We must have more effective governments, an understanding so that there will be no guerrilla violence and the defense of consumers from monopolies and speculation."

Monsignor Castrillon criticized the politicians who shamelessly ask for the support of the people and even their economic backing in order to deceive a defenseless populace.

"The upcoming election on 30 May should be a powerful lever for change. We must steer the country in the required direction, toward equality of rights and social justice," he said.

Monsignor Libardo Ramirez, bishop of Armenia, rejected the dishonesty which is undermining Congress and the state apparatus.

He said that loss of faith is an additional factor in the worldwide crisis.

"We have been preaching the Gospel for 2,000 years. However, in Colombia there is continuing violation of the principles and rights of man. There is dishonesty in Congress and in the government. The politicians are thumbing their noses at the voters."

Monsignor Ruben Isaza Restrepo, bishop of Cartagena, said that egotism of the flesh, violence and injustice favor "a world in convulsions."

Monsignor Joaquin Garcia Ordóñez, bishop of Santa Rosa, used his sermon to criticize fraud and deception of the people by an incapable leadership class.

He criticized abortion and made reference to divorce with a view to civil marriage as "a disguised free-love practice."

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CSO: 3010/1426

AMNESTY DEADLINE EXTENDED BY 60 DAYS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Apr 82 p 1-A

[Text] Yesterday the government announced a 60-day extension for guerrillas still fighting to turn themselves in to the authorities and to enjoy the benefits of 1982 Decree 474 which reduces penalties and offers a series of guarantees to anyone who lays down his arms.

This legislative decree issued by President Julio Cesar Turbay to bring about pacification of the country was to have expired on 19 April 1982.

On this subject the government issued the following communique: "In the next few hours the government will issue a decree which extends for 60 days the deadline specified in paragraph 1 of 1982 legislative Decree 474 to all the effects provided by Articles 1 and 2 of that selfsame decree and in connection with events that took place prior to 19 February 1982. The provisions of Article 2 of this legislative decree are also clarified to refer not only to a group or groups but to persons who individually avail themselves of the benefits of the decree." In this connection, two M-19 guerrillas turned themselves in during the last few hours in Popayan to the Cauca Police Department Headquarters to take advantage of 1982 Decree 474.

The subversives were identified as Pastor Urquia Ruiz, alias "Miguel," and Elizabeth Caro, alias "Doris."

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BRIEFS

FARC BANK ROBBERY--Medellin, 7 Apr--Today a group from the fourth front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attacked a town in Puerto Nare, east of Antioquia, and robbed a branch of the Bank of the Republic of 17 million pesos. The 40-man commando group entered "La Sierra," a mining town located on the left bank of the Magdalena River, shortly after 1300 hours, and stationed themselves at strategic points in the town without encountering public security forces. The Puerto Nare police chief said that some of the men entered the bank and stole 17 million pesos in gold and cash, after wounding an employee. After the attack on the bank, the guerrillas fled in a train that was passing through the town at the time. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 82 pp 1-A, 3-A] 8143

CSO: 3010/1426

FOREIGN DEBT ALMOST REACHES \$3 BILLION

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Apr 82 p 4-A

[Article by Lidiette Brenes de Charpentier]

Text] The foreign public debt plus the interest payable as of 31 March of this year reaches nearly \$3 billion, according to an estimate made by the Finance Ministry.

As of that date, obligations due and payable totaled \$397 million, of which \$176 million was principal and \$221 million interest. Both items comprise what is known as the service of the debt.

These figures were provided by Finance Minister Emilio Garnier and Silvia Charpentier, an official of that ministry. With the consultation of Kuhn Loeb, Lehman Brothers, the company that is advising the government on the renegotiation of the debt, Charpentier was in charge of the verification of foreign obligations.

Total

The foreign public debt amounted to \$2,984,518,000 on the last day of last month. Of that amount, \$390,691,000 is short-term debt, and \$2,593,827,000 is long-term.

Short-term obligations are those which fall due in less than 12 months; medium-term debts are payable between 1 and 5 years after they are contracted; and anything longer than that is a long-term obligation.

Charpentier explained that the final tally did not include the most recent disbursements by multilateral and bilateral institutions, but it did include a new issuance by the Central Bank of certificates of deposits in dollars, amounting to \$31.8 million, to satisfy the foreign currency "reservoir."

She added that for the short term, it was assumed that the payment of the principal (the amortization) has been postponed consecutively, and will be due the second quarter of 1982. The interest on that portion is included in the total.

Fluctuating interest rates were estimated at an average of 20 percent for 1981 and 15 percent beginning in 1982.

Structure

The study conducted by Charpentier, in which Juan Ricardo Jimenez assisted in the computation, shows that multilateral agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), and others that specialize in granting loans at low interest rates and long terms, are owed \$816 million.

Bilateral entities, which are friendly governments and official aid institutions such as the Agency for International Development (AID) and the Venezuelan Investment Fund, that also lend money on favorable terms, are owed \$402 million.

Commercial banks, which loan money at market interest rates and variable terms, must be paid \$1.28 billion.

The bonds that the Republic of Costa Rica and the Central Bank placed on European and Oriental markets total \$140 million, and the time deposit certificates in dollars from the "reservoir," held by exporters in order to make up for the exchange losses they suffered when the exchange rate was altered, all amount to \$346 million.

In terms of percentages, commercial banks have 42.88 percent of the total; multilateral sources, 27.34 percent; bilateral sources, 13.48 percent; Costa Rican exporters with certificates from the "reservoir," 11.60 percent; and bonds, 4.7 percent.

Comparison

The share of multilateral and bilateral agencies rose to 75 percent in 1972; it dropped to 60 percent in 1978 and amounted to only 40.82 percent last year.

Meanwhile, credit from commercial banks and from floating bonds, went from 18 percent in 1972 to 47.58 percent in 1981. The loan terms of the latter are steeper.

The service of the debt amounted to \$76.8 million in 1976, while this year, if an extension had not been obtained for the payments as part of the renegotiation, it would have totaled \$1.144 billion, said Charpentier.

This amount equals 108 percent of our exports, estimated at \$1.133 billion for this year, according to the Central Bank.

The need to renegotiate the foreign debt is obvious when one looks at the obligations that must be paid in the coming year, which total \$519 million; \$486 million in 1984; \$459 million in 1985; and \$340 million in 1986, it was reported.

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CSO: 3010/1443

PRODUCTION CAPACITY DECREASED 3.5 PERCENT

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Apr 82 p 4-A

[Article by Lidiette Brenes de Charpentier]

[Text] The country's production capacity dropped by 3.5 percent during the past year. This fact is of historic significance: for the first time in many years the economy did not just slow down its growth, but the growth actually shrank to an extent never seen before.

This is also an indicator of the real impoverishment of the population during that period, because if one divides the production of that year among the number of inhabitants, each Costa Rican would receive 5.8 percent less goods and services than he did in 1980.

These figures were compiled by Dr Fernando Naranjo Villalobos, former minister of development under the Oduber Administration. They are based on statistics of the Central Bank and estimates made by the firm Consejeros Economicos y Financieros, S.A., to which Dr Naranjo belongs.

The decline in productive activity was much more severe in construction and commerce, explained the economist. According to his prognosis, the recessionary trend of the 1982 economy will have the same adverse impact as it did last year.

Weakness

The production of goods and services in an economy in a given year, measured in colons, is technically known as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The more it grows, the healthier the economy is; if it drops, this is a symptom of something wrong in the productive structures, and in the final analysis, it means that individuals are becoming poorer.

The GDP, then, is the sum of everything that was invested and consumed, everything the government spent, and everything that was exported over a 12-month period. It is calculated by adding up the total value of each of these items, but measured in the prices that prevailed in 1966, the base year for these estimates.

According to Dr Naranjo, the country has been experiencing a weakening of its production capacity, because since 1977, a boom year for coffee prices when the GDP rose by 8 percent, national production has systematically declined from one year to the next.

In 1981 there was a fall of 3.5 percent, for the first time in recent decades. According to the economist, this decline was greatest in construction and commerce.

If per capita national production is analyzed, explained Dr Naranjo, the figures are even more alarming: in 1980 the per capita GDP dropped by 1.8 percent, while last year it fell by 5.8 percent.

Future

This expert feels that the deterioration of national production has not ceased, so he expects an additional decline in production this year, similar to that of 1981.

This means that in this 3-year period per capita production will have fallen by about 13 percent, which in turn means that for the country to regain the standard of living it had in 1979, it will have to undergo a recovery process of 4 or 5 years, he predicted.

There are many and varied causes for this phenomenon. One of the principal ones is the agriculture sector, stated Dr Naranjo.

Due to the low prices of its principal export products, the agriculture sector has experienced very modest growth in recent years.

Industrial activity was influenced by political and economic events in the other member countries of the Central American Common Market. So far, claimed Dr Naranjo, this sector has not been able to orient its production toward other markets.

Same Effect

The unrest on the isthmus had the same recessionary effect on the construction sector, because no one wants to invest in Costa Rica. This is aggravated by the instability of the exchange rate and the inflationary process that is eroding the buying power of the amount families set aside for housing.

This sector felt the impact of the spending cuts most government institutions have had to implement, stated the economist.

The government, along with agriculture, industry, construction and commerce, is another factor in the GDP. Its activities also suffered as a result of the fiscal problems affecting its finances.

Dr Naranjo explained that we should not expect to emerge from this crisis very soon, because the solution depends on the ability of Costa Ricans to

adjust to new living conditions that are worse than they were a few years ago.

Finally, the economist indicated that although it will not be easy to overcome these problems, it can be done if the people make the effort.

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MINISTER OF ECONOMY ON NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 4 Apr 82 p 4-A

[Article by Lidiette Brenes de Charpentier]

[Text] The price subsidy should be eliminated, and in its place fair and realistic remuneration should be paid to all producers, declared the future minister of economics and commerce, Marco Antonio Lopez Aguero.

The price policy, which also includes consumer protection, is one of the four pillars that will form the foundation of his administration. The others are the promotion of exports, the reactivation of the private sector, and the attraction of foreign investment.

These items are part of the emergency plan, soon to be announced, that the Monge Administration will implement during the first 3 months after it takes office.

Objectives

Lopez told LA NACION the objectives he will aim for in his next office. Earlier, under the Figueres Administration, he was minister of national planning; he was also ambassador to Washington and a representative to the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). He has a licentiate in economics and a master's degree in economic development.

Lopez asserted that his price policy will try to protect the producer and provide profitable and attractive remuneration. If such action is not taken, he warned, there is a danger that the basic necessities will be in short supply.

"There will be no subsidies," he said. In other words, the State is not willing to make up the difference between the price the consumer pays and the real price of goods; the buyer must pay exactly what the item costs.

The practice of subsidizing goods, which was common in earlier Liberationist administrations, was considered ineffective by the future minister, "because in that way we would never be able to achieve an equilibrium in the economy; on the contrary, we would have to resort to issuing unbacked currency to supply the funds needed for subsidies."

As has been said on other occasions, issuing money without backing leads to inflation.

It should be noted that for several months the current administration has been removing subsidies from various goods, including rice and beans, but it is still subsidizing fuel.

Majority

For consumers, which means all Costa Ricans, the new minister has devised a protection plan that would prevent the abuses of speculation and cornering markets. He has already selected a list of products from the basic basket, with their respective profit margins.

There will be inventory controls to prevent consumer shortages. When there are surpluses of products in the basic basket, they may be exported; only in that case would a subsidy be allowed, so that domestic market prices would be competitive with their international counterparts.

Other goals include the elimination of smuggling, an agreement on border trade, the strengthening of agricultural markets, the formation of consumer cooperatives with the corresponding sales, and the improvement and expansion of the price inspection team.

Sales Abroad

Lopez has already prepared a program to bolster national exports. Perhaps one of the most fundamental points is that as a general rule there will be no support or promotion for any kind of duty or tax measure that might discourage exporters.

"If it were necessary to levy taxes," he explained, "it would be done in a way that would not affect profitability and competitiveness with foreign markets."

He stated that there is an urgent need for the private sector to participate in the Investment and Exports Promotion Center (CENPRO), forming a consultative council. If necessary, the charter of that organization would be changed for that purpose.

Another aspect of his plan which he feels is essential to it, is a financial mechanism to subsidize air transportation. "It will be the only subsidy," he claimed. The airlines do not take goods out of the country if they are not guaranteed return cargoes, so the idea is to pay for the plane to return empty so that exports will not be delayed.

He plans to set immediately to the task of eliminating bureaucratic red tape for exports, centralizing all procedures in a single office or entity.

Through CENPRO, marketing firms will be formed in which small and medium businesses must participate, thereby giving them access to the international market.

With respect to the Central American Common Market (CACM), Lopez wants to negotiate multilateral or bilateral agreements with those countries in order to do away with barriers to free trade, and to solve payments problems, while at the same time strengthening the CACM.

Of course, he declared, "we will try to make use of the facilities of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Plan, which provides for free trade with that nation."

Private Sector

The next head of the economics ministry explained that it is imperative that a program be set up to adjust the bank debts of firms that are in a precarious financial situation due to the crisis.

"We will make a case-by-case study, analyzing the circumstances, and those that present legitimate justification will be favored. There will be no premium on inefficiency or bad management," he claimed.

The provision has two goals: to reactivate production on the one hand, and prevent more unemployment on the other.

Credit plays a very important role, he stated, so it will be adequate and timely. He confessed that he continues to believe in the need to establish preferential interest rates for agriculture and livestock and agroindustrial activities. Once again he affirmed that he will not support administrative measures that would provide a disincentive to production.

Investors

Lopez feels it is important to push through legislation to allow foreign international banks to set up branches in Costa Rica and to accept deposits on foreign currency from other countries.

Another essential plan involves reforming the law of the Costa Rican Development Corporation, Inc. (CODESA) to facilitate the total or partial sale of some of its enterprises.

Another of Lopez' objectives is to sell as soon as possible those hotel and industrial facilities that are inactive. He also plans to strengthen the program for foreign pensioners living on annuities.

Finally, he reiterated that as a general rule he will not promote or support any tax or administrative legislation that constitutes a disincentive or discrimination against foreign investment.

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CENTRAL BANK TO ABOLISH FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FUND

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 30 Mar 82 p 5-A

[Text] The Central Bank has decided to eliminate the Financial Compensation Fund, created in order to place the monetary resources not used by the government or the institutions of the public sector in a single account at the monetary institution, for common use.

This information was revealed by Finance Minister Emilio Garnier, who claimed that the decision, to be implemented soon, was made because the state institutions never used these resources.

The fund was created by Executive Decree 10855-H, published in the Official Gazette on 19 November 1979. That measure also formed the Budget Authority.

The original proposal was designed so that the institutions with slight deficits could use those resources, and the rest would be converted into bonds by the Central Bank.

However, it was determined that the entity that most often resorted to these funds was the government, because it had the most need for resources to cope with its continuing deficits.

Garnier stated that between the creation of the fund and May 1981, the government had taken 550 million colons from it.

Since May of last year that money has not been needed, so over 600 million colons have accumulated.

Minister Garnier indicated that his objective of restricting public spending is based on the fact that since he took office in May 1981, that type of financing has not been utilized.

Once the fund ceases to exist, the Central Bank will return the funds, and with the increase in deposits, its credit capacity will automatically expand.

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BUILDING INDUSTRY PROSPECTS CONSIDERED 'GLOOMY'

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 28 Mar p 4-A

[Text] During the first 2 months of this year construction costs increased by 19.47 percent in the housing sector and 18.37 percent in the commercial building sector, according to a study made by the Costa Rican Chamber of Construction.

The element that most affected this increase was labor, as a result of salary increases, decreed by the executive power last January. Statistics show that this month materials increased in price by an estimated 6.84 percent for housing and 3.90 percent for commercial buildings, while labor represented 10.69 percent for housing and 10.82 percent for commercial buildings.

The materials that experienced the greatest price rise during January and February were, among others: wood, 34.1 percent; brick, 45.8 percent; broken stone, 19.4 percent and plumbing parts, 15 percent. Labor costs increased by 30.4 percent.

Juan Jose Castro, an engineer and official of the construction chamber, explained that a bigger increase is expected when March is entered into the books, since in this period the price of cement increased by 40 percent compared with the February price. Moreover, some items such as the "P.V.C." increased by almost 20 percent.

Projections for the remainder of the year are not very flattering if we take as a base the increases during the early months of 1982. According to estimates by Castro, by May of this year the increase in construction costs will reach between 30 and 35 percent. After April, "the increases depend on the economic policies of the new government."

Castro added that for this year the construction outlook could be described as "gloomy," since the government has not planned the execution of any construction projects, and the private sector is in recession, awaiting new government policies, among which is price stabilization.

Contraction

With construction work having decreased during 1981 and during the year so far, in the public as well as private sector (see table below), the persons

directly affected are the workers. The construction chamber's statistics show that in 1978 companies employed an average of 160 persons; in 1979 they employed 177; in 1980, 161, and in 1980 [as published] this figure decreased to 85.

In addition, Fernando Rojas, an engineer and the executive secretary of the construction chamber, commented on the study, which was made by Consejeros Economicos y Financieros S.A. [Economic and Financial Advisers Inc.] on the "present state, recent experiences and outlook of the construction sector in Costa Rica." This analysis emphasizes that until 1980 construction was in a stage of growth, which stopped in 1981, when the economic crisis caused a drop in the construction of houses and commercial buildings, and, therefore, in Costa Rica's margin of unemployment.

The study, said Rojas, believes that the most significant aspects that characterize the crisis in construction are the reduction in loans by government bodies and the considerable increase in interest.

The study also believes that exchange instability, the problems of supply--as a result of low importing--as well as government mistakes in managing public problems affected construction costs, which during 1981 increased by 77 percent.

The main recommendations made by the builders to improve their situation are directed to the government, since they believe stabilization of the monetary system is essential, as well as granting credits by the National Banking System.

Table 1. Decrease in the Volume of Construction in 1981 Compared to Previous Years

Year	(Percentages)		
	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>
1978	-30.27%	-13.75%	-77.30%
1979	-29.50%	-16.73%	-15.34%
1980	- 3.61%	*+16.48%	-68.27%

*This sector increased construction.

Table 2. Increases in Construction Costs for the January-February Period in Each Year

Year	(Percentages)	
	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Commercial Buildings</u>
1977	4.43	5.16
1978	6.68	6.35
1979	7.12	8.12
1980	6.17	7.44
1981	14.73	15.70
1982	19.47	18.37

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CSO: 3010/1407

MINISTER ALTMANN SPEAKS ON COFFEE PRICES

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p 10-A

【Text】 The price per quintal of coffee fell \$32 this week in the international markets, declining to \$129, reported President of the Republic Rodrigo Carazo yesterday.

If this tendency toward a price decline keeps up, Carazo added, there could be "very grave consequences" for Costa Rica. For each dollar that the price of the coffee bean falls, we will lose \$1,900,000, stated the minister of energy and mines and president of the Coffee Bureau, Don Fernando Altmann.

Carazo received this information from Mario Fernandez Urpi, a lawyer and executive director of the Coffee Bureau, who is at the present time in London at a meeting of the International Coffee Organization (OIC), whose members are consumer countries and coffee bean growers.

The OIC establishes a yearly quota, divided into four quarters, explained Altmann, and in each quarter the same quantity of coffee is allotted for sale.

The season of the greatest "roasting" has already passed in the most important markets, which are Europe and the United States, since winter is over, which is when coffee is drunk the most.

Coffee roasting is declining, said Altmann, and since the roasters know exactly how much coffee is going to be offered in the quarter that begins on 1 April, they make the price of coffee fall.

However, Altmann remarked, on 8 March our coffee beans were quoted at \$163 on the New York commodity exchange, which leads one to assume that the drop in price, which is excessive, is not due to the termination of the season of greatest roasting.

"The market is completely unpredictable, but I have the impression that prices will remain depressed," added Altmann.

Altmann also stated that a recuperation could be expected for June, July and August, when there is frost in Brazil and the supply of coffee beans is reduced in the international markets.

Costa Rica's quota for this year was about 1,900,000 quintals, from which figure Altmann estimated that there would be a \$1,900,000 loss for each dollar that the price drops.

Moreover, the harvest this year will be about 2,230,000 fanegas, and there is a surplus of 450,000 fanegas from the previous harvest. The only resort left for the grower countries in trying to stop the price decline is to hold back coffee, and therefore, President Carazo said that Costa Rica will have left a "forced" stock of 585 [as published] quintals in 1982.

"We cannot sell them in the international markets," he explained, in view of the quotas allotted by the OIC.

Costa Rica will now see the consequences of selling cheaply, subject to a quota, while we buy dear everything that comes from abroad, Carazo asserted.

This "forced stock", Caraza continued, shows that the harder we, the inhabitants of underdeveloped nations, work, the more poorly we are paid.

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CSO: 3010/1407

ITCO BECOMES INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT (IDA)

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 30 Mar 82 p ?A

[Article: "Carazo Yesterday Signed the IDA Law"]

[Text] Rodrigo Carazo Odio, president of the republic, yesterday signed the law by which the Institute of Lands and Colonization (ITCO) is abolished to become the Institute for Agrarian Development (IDA).

This event took place in the auditorium of the supreme court of justice, minutes before the chief executive would inaugurate the constitutive ceremony of the International Foundation for Compared Agrarian Law.

The first thing that must be taken into account is that the new law of the IDA is not creating another institution, but has to do with a simple change of name, said Carazo.

This has been done because it is believed that ITCO has already been superseded--colonization being a thing of the past due to the fact that Costa Rica's borders are not expanding--joined with a structural and organizational reform of the body.

In this regard it is necessary to make clear, Carazo added, that the Law of Lands and Colonization that was in force simply created ITCO to apply its aims, but it did not define its operational structure.

Now it is hoped that this void will be filled by the new legislation, which is a complement of the law creating the agrarian courts, already approved by the legislative assembly, as well as the draft for the agrarian ordinance presently being studied by the congress and which contains the background law on agrarian matters, he emphasized.

The law defines with complete clarity which functions of the IDA must be considered as ordinary procedures, such as buying and selling, mortgages, renting of real estate and acquiring goods and services to work the land and for rural development; an aspect not well established in the old legislation, thus making tremendously difficult the execution of its objectives, Carazo said.

Foundation

The performance yesterday of the constitutive ceremony of the International Foundation for Compared Agrarian Law strengthened an idea that arose in this regard last year, when the ceremonies were held for the centenary of the College of Lawyers of Costa Rica.

The Governments of Venezuela and Costa Rica were involved in the establishment of the foundation. One of the priority aims that it is pursuing lies in the collection and dissemination of its research that have been published in this field of law.

Today and tomorrow work sessions will be carried out in which renowned international jurists will participate, such as Dr Antonio Carrozza of Italy, Dr Roman Duque Corredor of Venezuela, Antonio Agundez Fernandez and Agustin Luna Serrano of Spain and Dr Guillermo Figallo Adrianzen of Peru.

President Carazo gave a historical account about the type of agrarian legislation that has been effected in Costa Rica, and he emphasized the necessity of a true social justice as a support for national peace.

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SOY BEAN CULTIVATION HAS INCREASED IN LAST FEW YEARS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 82 Agricultural Supplement p 1-C

[Text] An increase in soy bean cultivation has been noted in recent years in Costa Rica thanks to the impulse that has been given to this program by the American Cooperative for Remittances Abroad (CARE), with the support of national organizations and, in particular, of the Costa Rican farmers. While in the 1980-1981 period the area planted in Guanacaste was about 350 hectares, and in Quepos y Parrita about 120 hectares, in the period corresponding to 1981-1982 the planted area rose to 500 hectares in the first region and to 300 hectares in the second region.

In the periods mentioned above, the number of farmers interested in growing soy beans also increased. In 1980-1981 in Guanacaste, 13 farmers planted soy beans, and in 1981-1982, 28; in the same periods, in Parrita y Quepos the farmers who planted soy beans rose from 5 to 14. Among this group, 14 small farmers participated, together with three cooperatives, an agricultural and livestock college, a semi-state-run enterprise and 26 medium and large farmers, during 1981-1982.

Yield

Regarding yields per hectare, according to information provided by engineer Francis Mo Siu, who is in charge of the program's technical administration, while in the 1980-1981 period in Guanacaste the yield declined from 38 sacks of 46 kilograms per hectare to 24 sacks; in Quepos y Parrita the yield rose from 22 to 40 sacks and in the same proportion in the southern zone. In the case of Guanacaste, explained Mr. Mo Siu, the yield declined because of high precipitation during the planting season, August 1981.

The variety planted in the 1980-1981 period in both regions was the Jupiter type in 1981-1982 in Guanacaste the Jupiter, UFV-1 and Alamo were planted; in Quepos y Parrita the Jupiter, Siatsa 194-A and UFV-1 were planted, and in the southern zone the same varieties as in Quepos y Parrita.

There were price differences noted between the two periods; in 1980-1981 7.10 colons were paid in Guanacaste and 9,00 colons in Quepos y Parrita, while in 1981-1982 the price was 3.50 colons in both zones.

Seeds

Until the 1980-1981 harvest, the entire quantity of seeds was imported for supplying farmers in the project, at approximately \$35 per kilo, which is \$92 per hectare.

Among the commercial harvest of 1981-1982, the project chose an area of 250 hectares with the aim of growing about 140,000 kilograms of seed, authorized by the National Office for Seeds, in order to supply the planting of 2,000 hectares in the 1982-1983 harvest, at a projected price of 25 colons per quintal, which will represent a savings of \$91,000 in foreign currency.

Imports

The soy bean, which according to experts is food substitute for milk, with as much protein and at much lower cost, represents the following figures in imports for Costa Rica: in scoured soy bean flour, 40,000 tons are imported yearly at a cost of \$14,000,000. This quantity of flour means 50,000 tons of soy bean grain is required, which in Costa Rica between 35,000 and 40,000 hectares of soy beans would have to be planted.

It has been considered that, relying on the support of the government and of organizations connected with the agricultural sector, we could grow enough soy beans to take care of the need for flour and also to supply school dining rooms with the milk for which they now must pay large yearly amounts.

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U.S. INTENTIONS IN EL SALVADOR CRITICIZED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 31 Mar 82 p 6

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar (PL)--A struggle to block attempts to negotiate in Central America and the Caribbean is taking shape in Congress and the White House, according to revelations today by the NEW YORK POST.

The newspaper alleges that the most conservative element in Ronald Reagan's administration is resolved to hinder negotiations in Central America and the Caribbean.

According to the POST article, the campaign against negotiation is headed by UN ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Republican Senators Jesse Helms and Steve Symms.

Senator Symms has proposed an amendment asking the Chief Executive to do everything possible to "contain the spread of Marxism in the Western Hemisphere."

The POST says that this amendment, if approved, would put President Reagan in a difficult situation. If he should oppose the amendment, he would displease his partisans on the extreme Right; if he supports it, this would amount to disapproval of any attempt to promote a negotiated outcome to conflicts in the area.

United States Launches Diplomatic Offensive Against Mexico's Peace Plan

Mexico City, 30 Mar (PL)--The United States has launched a ferocious diplomatic offensive against President Jose Lopez Portillo's plan to bring peace to Central America and the Caribbean, according to EXCELSIOR, the influential Mexican daily.

EXCELSIOR referred to accusations before the UN by Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, and General Alexander Haig's denial that negotiations between Nicaragua and the United States were imminent, saying that "the good period in U.S.-Mexican relations came to an end last week."

In an extensive analytical article, political commentator Manuel Buendia revealed details of compromise agreements prepared by Mexico, calling on

representatives from Washington and Managua to hold a high-level meeting in the latter capital in early April.

"Mr Haig asked Mexico to take charge of organizing the meeting and communicating to Sandinists the fact that the United States would suggest a specific date after the first of April. He also informed Mexico that the American delegation would be headed by Thomas Enders," Buendia said.

Citing high-level sources in the Mexican Government, Buendia maintains that the United States has been playing "an obvious game of dirty double-dealing," keeping Mexico entertained with a "flirtation" designed to convince the public of its conciliatory spirit, while carrying forward preparations for hostilities against Nicaragua.

"At this very moment, President Lopez Portillo and Foreign Relations Secretary Jorge Castaneda are aware that everything is ready for a new Bay of Pigs in Nicaragua, with help from two Latin American countries--Honduras and Argentina," indicated EXCELSIOR.

According to the article, Haig decided to call a halt to Mexico's mediation following the failure of his theatrical attempts to exhibit "proofs" and "witnesses" to document his allegations that Cuba and Nicaragua were involved in the Salvadoran conflict.

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CSO: 3010/1339

COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

READEX 2-82, OCEAN VENTURE 82 EXERCISES VIEWED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 31 Mar 82 p 6

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar (PL)--The United States, with its plan to stage mock wartime operations "Readex 82" and "Ocean Venture 82" next April, persists in its efforts to convert the Caribbean into a theater of war.

According to Pentagon sources, the "Readex" operation will begin April 6. Some 39 naval units, including 200 planes and two battle groups headed by aircraft carriers "Independence" and "Forrestal," will participate in these maneuvers.

It was also learned that naval forces from Great Britain and West Germany will participate in these operations alongside U.S. ships. All three countries are members of NATO.

Sources specified that "Ocean Venture 82," which will begin toward the end of April and run through the middle of May, includes a simulated invasion of Puerto Rico, landings of marines at the Guantanamo Naval Base (on Cuban territory illegally occupied by Washington), B-52 bombers, and the use of NATO's anti-aircraft warning system.

These latest operations will take place less than a month after the United States and various members of NATO carried out military maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits for the first time.

The decision by the United States and its NATO allies to execute "Safe Pass 82" exercises precisely when Washington was intensifying its campaign against Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, while also stepping up intervention in El Salvador, has been repudiated by world public opinion, which regards the maneuvers as threatening peace.

Although the Pentagon tried to characterize "Safe Pass 83" as an ordinary military training maneuver, observers noted that the United States planned the operation with an eye to extending NATO's activities to new regions.

Forces involved in these warlike military exercises operated at the extreme boundaries of NATO's theater of activity. The western limits of the maneuvers fell on the Tropic of Cancer at latitude north 23 degrees, 27 minutes--in other words, near the city of Havana.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES UNGA PRESIDENT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 Mar 82 p 3

[Text] Havana (AIN)--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, yesterday received 'Ismat al-Kittani, president of the Twenty-Sixth United Nations General Assembly and Iraq's vice minister of foreign relations.

During the interview, which took place in the confident and friendly atmosphere that characterizes Iraqi-Cuban relations, Rodriguez and his guest exchanged opinions concerning the General Assembly's activities, including the next extraordinary session, which will be devoted to disarmament, preparations for the Seventh Summit Conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, and the efforts of the commission created by the latter organization to put an end to the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Also present at the meeting were Iraq's ambassador to Havana, Arshad Tawfig Ismail, Cuba's foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca, and the Cuban first vice minister of foreign relations, Jose R. Viera Linares.

Chancellor Malmierca Hosts a Cocktail Party

Havana--Cuba's minister of foreign relations, Isidoro Malmierca, hosted a cocktail party in honor of 'Ismat al-Kittani at ministry headquarters.

Various members of Havana's accredited diplomatic corps, as well as several vice ministers and directors of MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations], also attended the party.

Malmierca and Al-Kittani later held a work session in which they discussed various aspects of coming conferences of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, as well as the search for a peaceful, political, fair, and honorable solution to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Also present at this meeting were Ambassador Arshad Tawfig Ismail and Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Oscar Oramas.

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PROBLEMS OF CUBANA DE AVIACION EXAMINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p 28-31

[Round-table interview with Cubana de Aviacion Manager Orlando Interian, "Jose Marti" International Airport Manager Edel Castro, and Nieves Gonzalez and Ariel Martinez, commercial deputy manager and operations manager, respectively, by Gregorio Hernandez: "Does Cubana de Aviacion Provide Satisfactory Service?"]

[Text] The reason behind this round-table conference was to present an in-depth analysis of the problems besetting the quality of service provided by Cubana and how to solve those problems. The growth of commercial aviation in Cuba and its infrastructure (airports, technical maintenance, and other support services) since the triumph of the revolution is quite impressive. The aircraft routes as such have been increased and diversified extraordinarily and Cuban planes fly practically in the skies all over the planet. However, this technological development and the safety achieved in passenger and freight transportation do no entitle us to rest on our laurels in view of the details which are as important as the main points throughout the entire process of preparing and executing this public service activity. To debate this issue from the aspect of its quality, several members of the board of directors of Cubana de Aviacion, which is under the Ministry of Transportation, sat down together around the table with newsmen from this press organ. The comrades in question are: Orlando Interian, manager, Cubana de Aviacion, Edel Castro, manager, "Jose Marti" International Airport; Nieves Gonzalez and Ariel Martinez, commercial deputy director and deputy director for operations, respectively, of Cubana. We hope that the reader will realize to what extent this topic was taken up with profound criticism and self-criticism and we hope that the reader will see something which is equally essential, that is, the readiness to continue more dynamically toward working out solutions to the questions which constitute negative aspects in this service.

[Question] One of the criticisms leveled against the quality of service provided by Cubana is failure strictly to stick to the schedules. What is your response to this claim?

Interian: From the viewpoint of sticking to the schedule, we are facing difficulties in doing that because there are problems concerning the effort to meet our flight schedules as such. But it must be said that, compared to 1980 and even comparing the first half of this year to the second half, the situation looks better because in September we accomplished the schedule to the extent of 90 percent, a figure which we had obtained already in July and which in our opinion is encouraging. On international flights, where more complex factors are involved, the situation has also been improving although progress here was less significant.

In analyzing this problem, we find that the main factors involved here can be resolved. In other words, flights are unnecessarily delayed due to lack of the necessary advance planning, sometimes because of a bad part or a bad decision. The situation has improved although we are not happy with it. The root of the problem resides in the fact that meeting the schedule requirements is a task for all employees of Cubana de Aviacion. We have improved our flight planning and the same is true of the servicing of aircraft on the ground; the crews themselves, along with technical personnel, display a higher degree of interest and readiness to make sure that the flights will take off on schedule.

[Question] The information provided for passengers in general so far has not been satisfactory. Why is this so?

Nieves: The current public address system is fundamentally based on the verbal transmission of information which, because of the quantity of operations we are handling, turns out to be not at all functional.

On the other hand, sometimes we find it impossible to give an exact arrival or departure estimate for a flight because of weather conditions, on many occasions; on other occasions, there are technical or operational problems which means that the information needed by the passenger is not entirely accurate. Besides, on top of all this, there are still problems of an organizational and coordination nature very often between special areas which are involved in flight operations. The information we provide is not the information the public expects of us and we are trying to improve that.

Edel: I believe that we must also talk about the technical problems we are facing regarding the information system. We have an information system based on visual information and audio information. The visual system, consisting of the boards installed along the rooms, was made in capitalist countries and we have a shortage of spare parts here which is why that system is not used.

As for the audio system, we do not provide the information in time or, when we do provide information, it is incomplete; the number of loudspeakers installed is not in keeping with the requirements for which they were planned.

We also have female comrades who have clear diction and a pleasant voice but in other cases they are too close to the microphone, they are not well trained, or they put too much volume into the equipment or the equipment is not correctly adjusted from the technical viewpoint. This also means that the information is deficient, incorrect, and bad.

Interian: This information problem is something we face not only at the airport; it has many facets. It starts the moment the ticket request begins at a person's home and it goes on until the passenger arrives at the airport. We conducted a survey recently and found that the passenger needs information most of all precisely when a flight is delayed but that is when we run into the most shortcomings. In almost 900 cases surveyed, more than 50 percent of the passengers had not received the information. This tells us that we need a proper mechanism although the main battle must be aimed at making sure that flights will not be delayed.

[Question] On many occasions, when the passenger arrives with his ticket in his hand, his reservation does not show up on the board at any airport throughout the country. How do you explain that?

Nieves: We would like this kind of shortcoming never to take place but unfortunately it does happen although not frequently.

Here is an example: Let us say that we have a return ticket reservation on the Santiago--Havana flight to be sold in Havana. When the flight is sold out, we inform Santiago de Cuba as to the names of the passengers who are going to use those reservations. When the message does not arrive or when it is lost, the passenger arrives in Santiago and his reservation does not show up but that can be resolved because he has priority.

Here is another situation: The passenger comes to buy his ticket, he gets a time limit, a day, a date, he arrives at the traffic counter, he is sold the ticket, but he is not told about reservations, which, in checking on the flight, would not include that passenger on the passenger list and when the passenger already has his ticket he finds that he has no reservation now. These are not frequent errors if we keep in mind the number of passengers carried.

[Question] What can you tell us about safety on the flights operated by the Cubana system?

Ariel: Flight safety is a fundamental factor in air operations. It begins the moment the aircraft is on the ramp; you have to make sure that all the equipment on the aircraft is ready for takeoff, you have to check on the route and the landing. Nevertheless, there may be incidents which follow each other in very close sequence in which case we must make sure that these incidents will not turn into accidents. Our enterprise has a flight safety commission which is alert to any abnormalities or any kind of violation of discipline in aeronautical operations. Technical training for air crews is

a fundamental factor in flight safety. The air crews periodically go through training courses in equipment simulating the various flight phases during which an emergency might occur. This type of training is generally conducted in the Soviet Union; after that comes training at the airports and then comes the route checkout. We often have the medical exam for crew members prior to flying and the periodical checkup which they get throughout the year. We likewise participate actively in technical maintenance personnel flight safety procedures; these people are highly skilled and have a very great sense of responsibility in preparing the equipment in the various systems. Next, we have ATC (air traffic control) personnel who, from the control tower, must comply with a whole series of standards guaranteeing flight safety.

Interian: It must be pointed out that this work is vital for us. It is said that there are three elements to be taken into account in aviation: regularity of operations, safety of operations, and economical and all other kinds of efficiency. We devote special attention to safety problems and an example is the drive concerning operations on the ramps which is supported by the IATA.

This year we analyzed the incidents, we observed cases of vehicles which somehow came into the path of an aircraft in the maintenance area, etc. We also found that they travel faster than required on the ramp where the aircrafts are stationed; the maximum speed is 15 kilometers per hour; this speed limited is violated in areas where equipment carts, etc., are moving around.

Another question is this: In an effort to guarantee flight safety, the country has made heavy investments in recent years. I am talking about the network of airports. At "Jose Marti" the runway has been extended by 4,000 meters, it has been resurfaced, we put in a new lighting system, we installed numerous radio aids to air navigation, we resurfaced the Camaguey Airport and we improved its lighting system to first-category requirements. We are working in Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo, in an effort to speed up modernization; all of this makes for greater safety in operation.

Edel: We are flying with our flight logs clear of any technical reports, as we put it in technical slang. Very often, to make sure that we are not going to have the slightest possibility of technical failure, which is a factor in accidents, we delay the flight and our aircraft takes off from our airports without any defects. Some capitalist companies show a greater percentage of flight schedule accomplishments but they do so at the expense of safety and at the expense of the fact that their aircraft fly with negative reports on their flight logs. We do not.

[Question] Is it possible to improve efficiency in service on board, both in national and international flights?

Ariel: There are indisputably many shortcomings in service on board the aircraft. When a passenger boards an aircraft, he always gets a certain impression, consisting of the effort made by all service personnel, above all the stewardess, who must make the flight pleasant and who must make sure that the passenger will feel secure and happy; that includes all of the services which the enterprise must provide for the passenger. Nevertheless, we are

conducting a survey to determine and to define even more accurately an entire series of shortcomings encountered on board and this helps in tackling these problems and solving them; this is something we will do immediately.

Edel: On-board service ends with the passenger but begins on the ground. We are having difficulties and problems with service on board which we generally call "support." We can arrange the shortcomings here in terms of human, organizational, and material shortcomings.

Let us start with the human shortcomings. Preparing food in a large volume, in a short span of time, is not easy. Our most skilled personnel have already retired and those people who come in fresh do not have this kind of training. Our specialist training effort has not been exactly the best; besides, our labor force is rather unstable; many feel that getting into food service is just a springboard for higher supervisory positions or for jobs as stewardesses or air control and other airport departments.

The next problem springs from the fact that, from the administrative viewpoint, we have not had exactly the best organization and the highest requirements in terms of the quality of service to be provided, in other words, the food that is actually prepared. In looking at material problems, we begin with the products which sometimes are not exactly the best to put on board the aircraft, in other words, we do not have the required variety.

There is yet another problem which also influences the quality and that has to do with the presentation of food put on board and later on served by stewardesses during flight. We are taking all kinds of measures and we are thinking that the standards that must prevail on board our aircraft will be complied with shortly.

[Question] The baggage of the passengers is not always handled and transported with sufficient care. What will you do to improve that situation?

Edel: We have had and we continue to have big problems with baggage ranging from bad handling and damage all the way to theft although complaints have decreased and we understand that the service has improved according to the result of the surveys conducted.

Of course, the passenger arrives at Havana, the carriers happens to be Cubana de Aviacion and the claim must be addressed to Cubana; but we sometimes found baggage to have been opened, items stolen, when these passengers come from capitalist countries and when the baggage handling system basically does not involve containers so that there are possibilities for theft. The measures that were taken are aimed at effective work within the airport as such. This is a department which requires special attention within the management sector and we are doing effective work here through the union office and the party committee.

Interian: This question--not so much the question of baggage theft but rather the question of baggage handling at the "Jose Marti" Airport--is due sometimes to the large number of aircraft we have to handle during a short period of time and that turns into quite a battle.

First of all you have the flight that must take off on time; then you have the flight that has just arrived and you have waiting passengers. There are moments during the day when the volume of operations simply piles up, along with the large number of international flights, the volume of freight that has to be handled so that the aircraft can be turned around and take off again, with other passengers waiting in customs to get their baggage so that they may leave the airport; in the meantime, on the other hand, we do not have enough personnel and when that happens, one or two flights are delayed; you have a situation where two flights coincide and that adds up to a problem of material possibilities. This works against high quality in service; we have instituted a system of processing the aircraft, handling the baggage on the ground, etc., because the most logical thing is for us to take the passenger to his destination in safety and at the right time and this is why the baggage must also get to its destination without any delay.

[Question] Why is the office of Cubana on the ramp not in better condition especially concerning the kind of attention given to international flights?

Nieves: The domestic and international traffic office has been involved in this activity for the past 16 years. At that time, we were handling one-fifth of the flights handled by Cubana today; besides, Cubana is the agent for almost all of the foreign airline companies operating in Cuba; for the rest, the airline tickets are made up. The services of these enterprises also have increased five times over or even more; this is why it has been necessary for quite a number of years to separate domestic operations from international operations to provide better service in both categories. We have found a good place and we believe that this will solve the problem. The office at the ramp (La Rampa) is visited by international passengers but most of the volume is domestic and there is a mixture which does not enable us to provide better service.

Interian: The solution must be to separate the domestic operations from the international operations. We are also trying to place it near a commercial zone. The idea is to leave La Rampa for international operations, to remodel it, and, on Humboldt Street, which is a block further to the rear, to put the domestic reservation area. Through this solution we think we will be able to provide better service in terms of time and comfort.

[Question] How are you coming along regarding training, especially the re-training of the pilots and the study of other languages by personnel taking care of international flights?

Ariel: The methods which we used for advanced training and retraining of personnel and of the crew is based on a system which keeps that skill constantly on a high level during all flight phases. We have the Il 62M and TU-154 equipment and we can that our crew members have achieved category 1 of the ICAO. We can also add that service personnel, such as the purser and the stewardess, are equally well skilled from the training viewpoint. The same is true of the languages used in the aircraft, such as English, French, and Russian.

[Question] Passengers on international flights reach the airports with their families and do not have an area for saying goodbye to them. What are you planning to do on that score?

Interian: The "Jose Marti" Air Terminal is insufficient and that applies not only to the terminal but also to the ramp where the aircraft are parked; there are days when the area is crowded with the aircraft of other enterprises plus those of Cubana. To counter this inadequacy of parking areas, we have gone into successive remodeling programs and the moment came when the national counters were unable to handle the passengers and their family members. This is why we are separating the international counters from those used by domestic passengers. This made it necessary to close the access gate to that room and the passengers on those flights which are not domestic must say farewell to their family members outside the airport area; When it rains, the situation is rather critical. Regardless of whether controls are improved and more facilities are provided, this airport is insufficient in terms of its structure and along with the increase of international tourist traffic, the situation is going to become more complex.

[Question] What solution are you planning on?

Interian: One solution is to turn the airport into an international terminal, in other words, to take out the domestic passengers and move them elsewhere and to put that operation opposite the airport, where we now have our parking lot or perhaps in some other area, using installations bordering on the terminal; this adaptation would not cost much and there would be a road connection which would make it possible to provide better service.

At any rate, we must find a provisional solution which is what we have been doing. We have come up with three alternatives and we must decide soon since a delay in the decision will only cause a delay in the implementation of the solution.

[Question] To summarize the answers given earlier, could you briefly review what you are planning in short-range terms to improve the quality of service rendered by Cubana?

Interian: Talking about the quality of service provided by Cubana, we can arrange it fundamentally in terms of four basic aspects: compliance with flight plans, quality of service on board aircraft, baggage handling, and public information; quality also includes the level of technical maintenance of aircraft equipment and equipment designed to check out the reliability of communications systems plus air traffic safety instruments. In other words, the quality of operations in the broadest sense of the word.

Last year, we proposed to decrease the domestic flight schedules by more than 80 percent and we achieved 84 percent. For international flights, we had a target of 70 percent and that figure is not easy to achieve because this is a tremendous increase compared to last year when we had 66 percent.

As for the baggage problem, we are still not doing an efficient job but the readiness of the workers taking care of that department of Cubana, plus the personnel in charge of that activity, will enable us to make sure that baggage will likewise be an object of high-quality service on all of our lines wherever a Cubana aircraft happens to be flying.

On-board service is another one of the problems we have been struggling with because very often there is an absence of proper management and we are not looking sufficiently hard for solutions; besides, there is even a lack of initiative.

Finally, concerning public information, this is something we have to take care of. We are not satisfied. We must make some small investments here. For example, the information service on reservations, which we provide in the central offices, presents problems because of the capacity of the telephones. We are changing the plant setup, we are putting in a new board and in the airport itself we are pursuing a process of reclassification and training for that personnel with the help of the Ministry of Communications.

Our Opinion: Let us be brief; the round-table discussion mentioned the mostly subjective existence of difficulties and shortcomings in the way in which Cubana de Aviacion rendered its service. This cannot be concealed. But, along with that, we can detect a high degree of complexity deriving from this type of activity which--in contrast to other activities that are also connected with the transportation sector because of its more general and massive use--is better known to the public.

In the light of what the speakers noted, we believe that the immediate prospects are obvious in terms of advanced training which will be expressed by better quality. Of course, this does not mean that we a priori can say that the situation has been corrected although we want to repeat that we are confident that there will be positive changes and that the situation will improve especially in those lines of work which still show shortcomings in the accomplishment of their programs.

We will follow everything concerning the operations of commercial aviation in Cuba with great interest and we pledge permanently to keep open this line of information and these comments as a contribution to the fight to hold high the banner of efficiency and quality in this important means of public transportation.

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CSO: 3010/1390

INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC USES OF LASER DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p 92

[Article by Rem Shcherbakov: "The Laser Today," from the magazine UNION SOVIETICA]

[Text] The USSR has awarded a national prize to a large group of scientists and engineers and the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences and other institutions for their work on development of the physical principles, as well as the creation and investigation of pulse-operation lasers in metal vapors and, on their basis, of optical systems with brightness amplifiers.

The first ruby laser beam flashed 20 years ago in a laboratory at the Physics Institute. It was generated by the admirable creations of the epoch of the scientific-technological revolution which was called upon to determine to a great extent the orientation of scientific research and production technology. The first semi-industrial models of the new instrument appeared some 18 years ago. Depending upon the levels attained in many countries, we can therefore say today that lasers have come of age.

Although still very young, the laser took little time to become indispensable in providing the solution for various scientific and industrial problems. It helps in observing the drift of continents and the possibility of examining objects without destroying them; it measures the degree of atmospheric contamination and seeks out minerals at great depths; it checks on the movement of artificial satellites and it prints books, investigates the composition of matter, and heals glaucoma. Thanks to the research conducted by specialists in many countries, we can add the laser to this list as one among other, new fields.

The industry of this country, where lasers were born, today produces several tens of types of laser equipment intended to meet domestic needs and for export. Italy acquired the patents for the manufacture of the "Yatagan" laser scalpel. The medals won at international fairs confirm the great qualities of the exploitation of Soviet lasers such as, for example, the technological investigations of the "Kvant" series intended for metal working and welding.

By using the light ray we can create a line of communications by means of which thousands of millions of persons can talk simultaneously, in other words, much more than the earth's current population! However, as we know, radio electric waves freely penetrate the ether since the light flow--and the laser flow likewise--is dispersed in the air by drops of water, dust particles, and atmospheric eddies. To remove those obstacles, light cables are created by means of which the laser beam is carried. Here is an example of its advantages over the current cables: telephone cables linking the continent have a diameter of several meters. If in their place we introduce communication by laser, it would suffice to have a light cable with the same thickness as a pencil. There is no doubt as to the great saving of copper and lead which is implied here. But this involves not only economic gain. No matter how much we may insulate an ordinary cable, interference of various kinds on communication lines is inevitable. On the other hand, light flows practically do not influence each other. This is why we are not astonished that computers are being developed in many scientific centers throughout the world where electronic flows have been replaced with photon flows, in other words, light rays. The expression "the light of human thought" has a literal meaning here.

The work of Soviet scientists recently rewarded with the USSR National Prize is highly significant. It is an effort tied in with the unusual employment of the laser as a weak light amplifier for the projection microscope. Biologists and doctors often on the screen must considerably increase the size of images of materials investigated under microscopy and, while making these observations, they must operate one or the other part of those microscopes, that is to say, they must perform "microsurgical operations." But to make sure that the images will appear clearly, it is necessary intensely to illuminate the materials themselves. Unfortunately, the delicate tissues do not withstand very bright light. These Soviet investigators have found a way out of this situation: they created a type of laser system governed by new principles and this is distinguished by its very high amplification coefficient. The apparatuses have been called "superirradiating lasers." The light flow emitted by the optical system, of which this laser is a part, by thousands of times exceeds the light flow received by it. Due to that, it has been possible for the first time anywhere in the world to obtain an increase of 10,000 times by optical means. Thanks to the principle found, it is not difficult either with great accuracy to reproduce various information collected on small surfaces.

Investigators at one of our institutes proposed an original idea to fight the terrible technological plague which is represented by the oil slicks spreading over the waters of rivers, seas, and oceans. In spite of prohibitions and fines, something like 300,000 tons of petroleum are being dumped each year, for example, into the Mediterranean Sea merely because of the flushing of the tankers. The iridescent film of fuel cannot be stopped nor burned because the water freezes under it. As a result of experiments it was found that the laser ray can solve the problem also in this field and moreover in various simultaneous ways. Through light pressure, the petroleum that sticks to the water is swept along and it is thus moved to just one location. Infrared laser rays can--as the very fine layer of water becomes

heated up--"set the sea on fire." It is not difficult to evaporate the petroleum or "to lift it" to the surface of the water, something which even makes it possible to collect this fuel in a tank. For this purpose it is necessary to "boil" the water layer that has been invaded by the petroleum.

Special location equipment, created by Siberian engineers and investigators, also helps in achieving ecological security. They are used to check on the purity of the airspace, to find sources of contamination, and to analyze the "odor bouquet." Until a short time ago, there were no apparatuses that could compete with the sense of smell of the animals. Now we can beat those records. The repertoire of laser installations now includes new roles: discovering leaks in pipes, looking for minerals, inspecting perfumery products and even working in hothouses. While the composition of the air surrounding these detector units is being analyzed, one can precisely determine the varigation and fertilization times for the plants.

The fundamental volume of the work today being done by all of the laser industry installations would take up several articles. But there is no doubt that the laser will enter homes in the lifetime of the present generation. Man will turn on the every-present ray to see laservision in 3-D, to cook food, or simply to shave.

PHOTO CAPTION

By virtue of the power of radiation in the short-wave and ultraviolet ray ranges, the laser, created by investigators at the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences, by a million times exceeds sources not generated by lasers.

5058

CSO: 3010/1390

COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BRIEFS

PORtUGUESE COMMERCE SECRETARY VISIT--Portugal's Minister of Commerce, Antonio Escaja Goncalves, arrived in Havana yesterday at the head of his country's delegation to the Fifth Meeting of the Mixed Luso-Cuban Commission. At the airport to receive him were Amadeo Blanco, the vice-minister of foreign commerce, and other officials of the same ministry, as well as representatives of the Government Committee on Economic Cooperation and MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations]. Portugal's ambassador to Cuba, Francisco Treichler Knopfli, and his Cuban counterpart, Carlos Lechuga, were also present.
[Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 Mar 82 p 3] 9839

CSO: 3010/1339

GUILLERMO UNGO DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, U.S. INTERVENTION

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 82 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Guillermo Ungo, President of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador, by Jose Davila Membreño; date and place not specified]

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, social democratic lawyer, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, is the head of the civilian part of the coalition which is fighting against the Salvadoran governing junta.

The military section of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is made up of five guerrilla organizations having a Marxist tendency, and is led by a high command comprised of their five respective leaders.

The governing junta, whose civilian section is headed by the Christian Democrat engineer Napoleon Duarte, has programmed elections for a constituent assembly to take place next Sunday.

The FMLN is planning to boycott them, the FDR is criticizing them. Both are in favor of a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

Ungo explains in an exclusive interview with LA PRENSA the position of the FDR, its hopes for pluralism, its interest in negotiation, and its criticism of next Sunday's elections.

The text of the interview follows:

[Question] Dr Guillermo Ungo, could you indicate what immediate concrete steps could bring peace to El Salvador?

[Answer] Initiatives for peace, proposals for a negotiated political solution--this is nothing new.

They have been proposed by the FDR, the FMLN, and government and international organizations.

It has not been possible up to now to begin a negotiation process which would really lead us to peace.

The obstacles to a negotiation process have been on the one hand, the government of El Salvador, particularly the high military command which holds power, and the oligarchy which is trying to maintain a state of war; and on the other hand the U.S. Government.

Now a new initiative has been introduced, which seems to be having a positive effect, and that is the proposal of Mexican President Lopez Portillo.

The U.S. Government has not responded positively to this, since they have put off any negotiations until after next Sunday's elections.

The following steps would take place: first the U.S. Government would place itself in a position to cooperate with the governments that favor and are pushing for a negotiation process.

The next step would be to agree on the terms, the agenda with the fundamental points of the problem, so as to continue the search for agreements in the political and military area.

We have already indicated some points for discussion, such as: the setting up of a broad-based and pluralistic regime, and the preservation of the institutionality of the armed forces.

Another topic in the search for peace would be the negotiation of a cease-fire, not of an isolated kind, but little by little as agreements are achieved.

The other point would be to agree on a program of social change, which would satisfy the interests of the majority of the people, without affecting those of the other sectors which would make up the bases of the government.

[Question] Dr Ungo, since a process of negotiation like the one that you propose is encountering some obstacles at this time, and given the imminence of next Sunday's elections, could you tell us why the FDR did not accept the proposal made by Napoleon Duarte some months ago that it should participate in these elections?

[Answer] For the same reasons, multiplied 100 times, that Mr Duarte and his Christian Democratic party did not take part in the 1978 elections.

Political liberty does not exist, there is military control where only the far Right and the Christian Democrats have protection. The rest are considered to be enemies, we are persecuted by the security forces, and not even foreign correspondents have escaped this, since in El Salvador it is considered a crime deserving of persecution and death to tell any other version of the truth than the official one. There is a state of siege, which is not comparable to the one in Poland. In El Salvador there are political assassinations, control of the press and lack of access to the communications media.

If there are foreign correspondents who are afraid to be present at the elections as observers, what guarantee could a defenseless peasant have?

So then, with the lack of a climate of political freedom and the massive violations of human rights, we cannot take part in these elections. It is not our choice, and it is the choice of the government not to let us participate under conditions of equality and liberty. Because of this, the government is already carrying out fraud, manipulating the data without waiting for the day of the election.

Mr Duarte himself has already declared that 500,000 Salvadoreans are going to vote, and they consider this to be satisfactory.

In 1978 the population eligible to vote was 1.8 million. Four years later there actually are more than 2 million; however, they are saying that the number of voters ranges between 1 million and 1.2 million.

Thus they will be able to manipulate it so that a vote of between 500,000 and 600,000--they have had 800,000 ballots printed--will be supposed to mean 50 or 60 per cent of the electorate, when it really will be 25 or 30 per cent.

These elections will result in a rearrangement of the power of the Right; and for this reason I believe that even if the Christian Democrats win, which is arguable, they are going to share constituent power with a Right which at this time does not formally participate in the government.

There are rightist parties like ARENA of Major D'Aubuisson, or the PCN [National Conciliation Party] who have used fraud and repression against the people, who are going to get shares of 20, 30 or 40 percent.

In this sense the Christian Democrat Party is going to lose, and what it is trying to do is to lose as little as possible.

[Question] Doctor Ungo, the forces of the FMLN are trying to boycott the Sunday elections, however the elections are proceeding. My question for you is: if there is a big turnout of votes on Sunday, would there be a change in the FDR-FMLN strategy?

[Answer] Because of what I mentioned previously, and the political experience of the Salvadoran people with elections, which even if they wanted them to be free have instead been instruments of exclusion, the Sunday elections have already been a failure.

International opinion has no faith in those elections, let alone the public. Only 10 of the 60 governments invited here have confirmed that they would send observers.

The governments of El Salvador and the United States themselves are now calling the elections not a solution, but a first step toward a solution.

We also understand that those elections are a first step, but in the sense that it is going to make people see that in spite of the elections the war is not going to end.

Then the only alternative solution that will remain will be negotiated withdrawal from the conflict.

Because of this our position is not going to change, and as long as there is no peace and those who want war continue it, there will be war before, during, and after the elections.

The position of the FDR, then, will be to continue to be watchful, to continue calling for peace, to continue searching for a way to contain greater intervention in the Salvadoran conflict, and always to seek for the negotiated solution on the basis of greater pluralism.

[Question] If after Sunday's elections a negotiating process should begin, would the FDR as such, as the civilian sector headed by a social democrat like you, negotiate alone, or is it essential for you to have the support and alliance with the Marxist guerrillas of the FMLN?

[Answer] In the first place, we cannot speak of the FDR controlling or claiming to control the FMLN, or the FMLN controlling or claiming to control the FDR.

It is not a question of who is controlling what, it is a question of finding agreements on a basis of democratic pluralism.

This is not an ideological problem, it is a political problem; it is not a question of imposing a Marxist or non-Marxist socialist project, or a nonsocialist project.

We have said that it is a question of a nonsocialist project, which would deal with a necessary stage demanded by the people.

It is not a question of excluding the FMLN or the FDR or any other organization; rather it is a question of including all the other sectors, in which the church itself could play a role.

We do not see any danger in this point of view, because one single program is going to be developed, filling mutual needs, which not only would include the FDR-FMLN but all the sectors.

We are going to carry out the project not only with internal pluralism, but with international pluralism, which makes room for a policy of nonalignment.

We, the FDR--and the FMLN has also upheld it--are in favor of a dignified and respectful relationship with the United States, with the governments of Latin America and other parts of the world, especially Europe.

Large-scale international support is needed in order for this project to be able to survive and develop.

In this respect, Lopez Portillo's proposal opens the way for establishing guarantees, not only for a democratic solution, but of the sustaining of the project itself.

This proposal allows for the possibility of some governments participating as guarantors, not only of the national project, but guaranteeing the national security interests of the U.S. Government as to the practice of a nonaligned policy.

[Question] Dr Ungo, excuse my persistence, but how can you, as a social democrat, be sure that at the time when the project is carried out the Marxist guerrillas, who are the ones who have the weapons and then will have power, will be in favor of pluralism? Will that international machinery which you mention be effective? You talk of peace, but the guerrillas are burning or blowing up buses.

[Answer] The government of El Salvador and that of the United States have finally realized that there is a war in El Salvador. Before they were talking about isolated terrorism, of a temporary civil war, but after 2 years it has been shown that it is a war.

A war is not desirable, a war brings destruction and death. The important thing is to ask ourselves what and who is behind it.

Every war brings destruction, damage, etc., but we have seen thousands of films justifying those who take part in wars for just causes.

Now the rifles and the weapons are playing a political role when a political conflict is being settled by military means.

Those weapons do not have the same significance in times of peace. We do not share the militaristic view that believes that political power comes exclusively from guns; it basically comes from the participation and organization of the people.

Therefore it is not possible to say that those who have the rifles in times of war are the ones who are going to have political power in time of peace.

Within the greater plurality that would exist accompanied by international cooperation, we of the so-called democratic sectors can fill a role of the first importance in carrying out the fundamental objectives and preventing isolationism from strangling the project's viability.

Moreover, among the points that we want to negotiate is the preservation of the institutionality of the armed forces. We must structure professional armed forces which serve a democratic plan and regime, and which do not have an oligarchic nature.

We must look for a way to integrate the armed popular sectors, without forgetting that the majority of those who are now fighting are not military professionals, but people whom circumstances have forced to take up arms.

[Question] What do you think about the general commentary that the lack of massive popular support for the guerrillas is due, among other things, to the prestige of Napoleon Duarte? Is it that lack of support which has compelled you to propose negotiations as the only way out?

[Answer] Duarte was the candidate not only of his party but of a popular alliance to which we also belonged.

Duarte's popularity, or lack of it, is quite arguable. Some say that no one likes Duarte, neither the rightists or the leftists.

So the so-called lack of popular support for the guerrillas is not because of Duarte's popularity or unpopularity. I believe that the support is shown by the existence of thousands of armed combattants, and the tens of thousands of men, women, and even children without arms who allow the guerrillas not to be destroyed, despite the armed forces' offensives.

Mobilization cannot be done on the urban level, because it would mean massacres, and we are not going to send the people to the slaughterhouse.

It is the same as in Poland, as long as there was no martial law hundreds of thousands of Polish workers expressed themselves freely, there were strikes, etc., but as soon as martial law was imposed they could no longer express themselves.

So we could come to the same conclusion, that these hundreds of thousands of Polish workers are supporting that military regime.

Those are the conditions of controlled political life, the ones that prevent the people from expressing themselves.

[Question] One last question, Dr Ungo. What comments could you make about the letter which the commanders of the FMLN yesterday sent to the president of Venezuela, making peace offers?

[Answer] Well, we could make an overall positive appraisal. The Venezuelan government and the Social Christian Party have become involved in the Salvadoran situation, and these are positive signs. The Venezuelan Government has shown signs of being opposed to intervention and the destabilization of our countries; this favors a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict, although it is only a beginning.

This is coming to be part of the general aspect of Lopez Portillo's proposal, that the government of the area can become positive factors in a negotiated solution.

It also demonstrates an interest in pluralism on our part, not only domestically, but also internationally.

The Venezuelan Government has not been a friend of the FDR, but we believe that peace should be constructed not only with the cooperation of friends, but also with that of the adversaries, not enemies, who still find positive aspects for agreement among the differences.

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CSO: 3010/1411

POSSIBLE END TO PSR DISPUTE WITHIN PSUM

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 29 Mar 82 pp 24-25

[Article by Oscar Hinojosa]

[Text] Historian Enrique Semo's refusal on Thursday 25 March to accept one of the 21 posts in the Political Commission of the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico] opened the door, unintentionally, to the settlement of the conflict which divides the former PSR [Socialist Revolutionary Party] from the rest of the new leftist party.

One of the points of disagreement by the former PSR (aside from ideological and political matters) is in regard to the small representation that this faction was given in the PSUM directing bodies: it holds three of 75 Central Committee posts and one of the 21 Political Commission posts.

The vacancy left by Semo due to his work (at present he is engaged in finishing two more of his books), could be filled by one of the two former PSR members on the Central Committee but not on the Political Commission. This is a possible means of increasing the weight of that faction (ideological hardliners), because appointment to the Central Committee is a prerogative of the national congress and cannot be resigned.

However, Semo himself said, "I am declining, not resigning." He pointed out "nowadays no one can put pressure on the Central Committee to make decisions of any kind. We must recognize that the Central Committee is a sovereign and free body."

In confirming his decision not to be a member of the Political Commission Semo expressed his conviction that "although there are problems within the party, they will be smoothed over." He admitted that the former PSR "is entitled to be represented in the party's political life at every level" even though the results of the voting at the national congress were not along these lines.

The PSR faction leaders would not be displeased if their membership in the Political Commission, the most important PSUM directing body, were increased, according to what this reporter was told, although they insist that it is not positions of that type they are most interested in.

The Political Commission has not taken up the question of the conflict. Jaramillo, who last Thursday rejoined it said, "What is most important is for the party to shake off the lethargy into which it has fallen and take over the role role it deserves in popular struggles, especially in critical times like the present.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PRI CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 1 Mar 82 pp 18-21

[Article by Gerardo Galarza: "PRI Will Fill the Chambers With the Same Names and the Same Vices"]

[Text] In the end, what prevailed was "its proven militancy, its ability and an irreproachable public conduct;" and so the unity of the revolutionary family remains intact, unchangeable and invincible, as the party which has given it a lineage.

Generous, the family does not forget merits. Magnanimous, it forgives those who have at times been undisciplined. Monolithic, but foresighted, it has recourse to its members seasoned in legislative combat. Resolute, it offers opportunity to certain neophytes who have grown up in the shadow of its patriarchs.

But above all, it opts for its security, and launches those who are very well known. Some of the perpetual names: Hernandez Loza, Cervera Pacheco, Manzanilla Schaffer, Garzon Santibanez, Dorantes Segovia, Venus Rey, Varela, Osorio Palacios, Olivares, Madero, Ramirez Minjares, Anderson Nevarez de Rojas, Ramos Gurrian, Mora Plancarte, Senties, Diaz Serrano, Martinez Martin, Barragan Camacho, Danton Rodriguez, Vargas Saldana, Zamora Batiz, Hernandez Haddad, Gomez Maganda, Munoz Mosqueda, Cervantes Acuna, Ramirez Gamero, Riva Palacio, Oceguera....

As might have been assumed, those who are on the lists are for the most part the same ones who have always been "safe" or "unveiled." The anticipation over these famous lists began to wane with their first entries, on Friday, 19 February, when the members and their backgrounds were announced.

Candidates for deputy who have held that position once, twice or many times; senators who are now unabashedly seeking a deputy's seat; deputies who trying for a Senate seat this time; candidates for senator who have held that position on at least one other occasion; former deputies and senators on the path of eternal return; public officials or former public officials with a seat as a consolation prize....

Names, names, names repeated a thousand and one times, as representatives of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]; names with a history and without one, who will cause the same blood as usual to flow through the corridors of the Legislative Palace, with a transfusion of only a few new small drops, from those who are just beginning the race to arrive, so as to stay.

For openers: Abelardo Carrillo Zavala, a federal deputy representing Campeche in 1970-73 and 1976-79, state leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], and right-hand man of Carlos Sansores Perez, who is once again a candidate for deputy representing that state.

Refugio Mar de la Rosa (candidate for senator representing Chihuahua); federal deputy in 1970-73 and 1976-79; state leader of the CTM. His running mate: Jose Socorro Salcido Gomez, a classmate of the PRI candidate for the presidency at the UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] Law School; local deputy, reputed to be a wealthy man; nominated by the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations].

In her first foray, Socorro Diaz Palacios, editor of EL DIA, will defeat her predecessor and instructor, Enrique Ramirez y Ramirez (twice a deputy), and will be a senator representing Colima.

The first list was from the state of Durango and, of course, included Miguel Gonzalez Avelar (for senator), the PRI's secretary of information and propaganda. Former director of publicity and public relations for the Secretariat of Programming and Budget, and leading member of the PRI candidate's team, it is thought that his election will be only part of the biography. His alternate: Gonzalo Salas Rodriguez. The post as senator will be the first one resulting from a popular election for Gonzalez Avelar, as will that of his brother, Victor, who has been nominated for deputy representing the second district of Coahuila.

Jose Ramirez Gamero, the CTM's secretary of political action, and a federal deputy in 1976-79, completes the senatorial ticket for Durango, a state which numbers among its candidates for deputy Maximiliano Silerio Esparza, who already held the post in 1976-79, a general secretary of government under Hector Mayagoitia Dominguez and representative of the present governor in the Federal District.

That list also gave the first consolation prize: Removed from the PRI's leadership in the capital upon the advent of Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Celso H. Delgado, a federal deputy in 1970-73, appointed to contest the second report of Luis Echeverria, and former ambassador to Argentina, was nominated a candidate for senator representing Nayarit, along with Rigoberto Ochoa Zaragoza, the CTM's leader in that state.

The family album is still open, and the photos are wearing thin:

Alfonso Garzon Santibanez (for senator representing Baja California); leader of the CCI [Independent Peasants Federation], perpetual supplicant and twice a federal deputy (1970-73 and 1976-79), despite his reputation as an old opponent of the PRI. Now he will be a Chamber colleague of Agustin Tellez Cruces, president of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, and candidate representing Guanajuato, who will inherit the seat of Euquerio Guerrero Lopez, of Guanajuato, who also arrived in the Senate through the Judicial Branch. Less than a year ago, the CCI accused justices of the Supreme Court of being corrupt, and the plenum of that judicial organ filed a complaint for defamation and slander with the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic against this peasant federation. Nothing has been learned regarding the results.

Heliodoro Hernandez Loza (for senator representing Jalisco); leader of the CTM in his state; a deputy "every time"; is returning as a senator. His wife, Maria Guadalupe Martinez, was a federal deputy in 1970-73.

Victor Manzanilla Shaffer (for senator representing Yucatan); a deputy, senator, deputy and now senator again. In 1977, as a federal deputy, he opposed a presidential bill already approved by the Senate to reform the Regulatory Law for Article 27 of the Constitution, regarding oil. "Seldom in my life have I felt so alone," he remarked on 29 December of that year, from the platform, when met with the silence of his colleagues. Then he went to the Mexican Embassy in China, and now he has returned with a chance of being leader in the Senate.

The Yucatan attorney will have as a running mate Mirna Esther Hoyos, a federal deputy in 1976-79, who grew up under the shadow of Silvia Hernandez, in the CREA, and also in the PRI's Secretariat of Organization.

Silvia herself, also a former federal deputy, will go to the Senate representing Queretaro, taking the seat that will be left by her brother, Cesar, who was alternate for the current governor of that state, Rafael Camacho Guzman. Her running mate: Mariano Palacios Alcocer, rector of the UAQ [Autonomous University of Queretaro], and vice-president of the ANUIES, who was originally to be a deputy, but whom an "adjustment" converted into a candidate for the Senate.

While Manzanilla Shaffer took 3 years to return, 4 months of purgatory in Moscow were enough for Jorge Diaz Serrano, the most publicized presidential precandidate and director of PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] until, one day in June, he decided to cut the price of oil. Diaz Serrano will be senator representing Sonora; and, arriving with him, will be Fernando Mendoza Contreras, now a federal deputy.

The traditional land of politicians, Veracruz will be represented in the Senate by Manuel Ramos Gurrión, currently a federal deputy, who 3 years ago had the painful experience of opposing his former colleague, Candido Diaz Cerecero, a PST [Workers Socialist Party] candidate and currently a candidate for the presidency. Special elections had to be held. The other senator from Veracruz will be Mario Hernandez Posadas, twice a deputy, and a peasant leader associated with Augusto Gomez Villanueva during his best times, who has arrived after an "adjustment" of lists whereby he was sacrificed to Mario Vargas Saldana, a three-time deputy, who will be content with holding that position again.

Also representing Veracruz: Celso Vazquez Ramirez will go to the Chamber of Deputies for the third time; Silverio R. Alvarado will exchange his present seat for a chair; the director of government monitoring and auditing control of the Secretariat of Programming and Budget, Rogelio Carballo, will be a deputy; as will Irma Due de Duarte, general director of legal-administrative studies of the Presidency of the Republic.

Roberto Casillas Hernandez, private secretary of the president of the republic, is now a candidate for senator representing Aguascalientes; while one of the present senators from that state, Hector Hugo Olivares, son of the current secretary of government and once a deputy, will return to a chair, and is also a candidate for leader of the PRI majority.

Humberto Hernandez Haddad from Tabasco has not wasted his youth, and hence he will go down in history: He was the first to benefit from the reform which allowed deputies 21 years of age. A legislator in 1973-76 and 1979-82, he will now be the youngest senator. He has as a partner Salvador Neme, general secretary of the government of Leandro Rovirosa Wade.

Although it is by now known that calling the PRI a "workers' party" was a verbal excess, labor leaders and militants from the workers' sector, in addition to those already mentioned, shine with their own light on the lists:

Abraham Martinez Rivero, a candidate for senator representing the Federal District, was a deputy in 1976-79. He is leader of the CTM in the Federal District, replacing Joaquin Gamboa Pascoe, who will yield his seat to him in exchange for the labor leadership.

Gilberto Munoz Mosqueda, coordinator of the labor sector's parliamentary faction in the current Chamber of Deputies after Emilio M. Gonzalez left to be governor of Nayarit, will be senator representing Guanajuato.

Filiberto Viguera Lazaro, leader of the CTM in Guerrero since the age of 25, twice a local deputy and currently a federal deputy, will now be a senator representing that state.

Luis Jose Dorantes Segovia, leader of the Federation of Government Workers Unions (FSTSE), will occupy one of the Senate seats representing Hidalgo. It is claimed that his sojourn in the residence on Xicotencatl Street will be brief, because he might become the new director of the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers]. His alternate: Amelia Holguin, who has already been a deputy.

Hector Jaquin Hernandez, head of the CTM in the State of Mexico, and current federal deputy, will also be a senator.

Gonzalo Pastrana Castro, head of the Morelos Workers Federation and twice a federal deputy, was nominated as a candidate for senator representing that state.

Raul Caballero Escamilla, leader of the CTM in Nuevo Leon and a federal deputy in 1976-79, is now a candidate for a Senate seat representing that state.

Angel Aceves Saucedo, a candidate for senator representing Puebla: he is an economist consultant for the CTM and head of the League of Revolutionary Economists, hence a member of the CNOP. He was a federal deputy in 1979-82.

Juan S. Millan Lizarraga, leader of the CTM in Sinaloa, will hold the seat which had been meant for the former governor, Alfonso G. Calderon, also a CTM member, who encountered Antonio Toledo Corro on his way to returning to the Senate.

Justino Alba Zavala, top-ranking leader of the Railroad Workers Union and former chairman of the Labor Congress, has been nominated as a candidate for senator representing Tlaxcala.

Salvador Barragan Camacho, a candidate for senator representing Tamaulipas, is national leader of the Oil Workers Union of the Mexican Republic, which is the turf of Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, "La Quina," and that suffices.

Arturo Romo Gutierrez, a CTM consultant, teacher training school instructor and lawyer, who took postgraduate courses in labor economics in Washington and served twice as a federal deputy, and was also an assistant prosecutor of complaints and collective organization for the Federal Attorney's Office for Consumers, is a candidate for senator representing Zacatecas.

Ramon Serrano, a candidate for federal deputy representing Colima, has held all the secretary offices in the Colima Workers Federation, of which he has been general secretary since 1955. He has been a local deputy three times, and a federal deputy once (1976-79).

Venustiano Reyes Lopez ("Venus Rey"), the musicians' leader and a candidate for federal deputy representing the Federal District, has already held this position several times, most recently in 1976-79.

Juan Jose Osorio Palacios, also a musicians' leader, is similarly a candidate for a deputy's seat representing the Federal District. In 1977, he contested the first government report of Jose Lopez Portillo. He has been a deputy three times.

Hilda Anderson Nevarez de Rojas, a current labor senator representing Sinaloa who served twice as federal deputy, will run for the third time, representing the Federal District.

The current dispute of the urban transportation workers in the Federal District also left a candidate for a labor deputy's seat: Joaquin del Olmo Reyes, of the CTM, who has held chairs on three occasions.

Another "every time" deputy, Manuel Alvarez, leader of the butchers, is now a candidate representing the 29th district of Mexico City.

Juan J. Varela Mayorga, a labor leader from Guanajuato, who has been a federal deputy twice (1970-73 and 1976-79), and a local deputy several times, will again be a federal deputy representing Guanajuato.

And something which no one, no member of the revolutionary family, will understand: The teachers' disputes during the last year and a half, which have left missing persons and deaths, benefited the PRI teachers. The discipline has its compensation:

Ramon Martinez Martin, national leader of the SNTE [National Educational Workers Union], son-in-law of Carlos Jonguitud Barrios, and president for life and strong man of that union, obtained the nomination as a candidate for senator representing Jalisco.

And furthermore, other SNTE leaders and members who appeared on the lists are: Alberto Miranda Castro, candidate for federal deputy representing Baja California Sur (Mulege); Miguel Angel Acosta Ramos, representing Chihuahua (Chihuahua);

Ausencio Astudillo, representing Guanajuato (Celaya); and Elba Esther Gordillo, now a federal deputy, was nominated as an alternate senatorial candidate representing the State of Mexico.

Prominent members of the family who could not remain are:

Maria del Carmen Marquez de Romero Aceves, federal deputy in the present legislature and candidate for the Senate representing Baja California.

Enrique Soto Izquierdo, former director of INJUVE [National Institute of Mexican Youth] (now CREA), a federal deputy representing the Federal District in 1976-79 and now a candidate for a deputyship representing Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, inherited from Lerma Candelaria.

Armando Trasvina Taylor, currently a federal deputy, former local deputy and former chief clerk in the government of Baja California Sur, was nominated for a Senate seat representing that state.

Francisco Jose Madero Gonzalez, "Panchito," a candidate for senator. He was a federal deputy in 1979-82, and acting governor of Coahuila for 100 days, after the resignation of Oscar Flores Tapia, whose team he retained. He was chairman of the Federal Board of Material Improvements of Torreon, appointed by Flores Tapia, and mayor of Torreon, assigned by Flores Tapia himself. As alternate: Jorge Masso Masso, also a federal deputy in 1979-82.

Manuel Villafuerte, a management lawyer and federal deputy in 1976-82; named a candidate for senator representing Chiapas. His running mate: Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido, son of a former governor, former colleague of Miguel de la Madrid, former deputy and former collaborator of Alfonso Martinez Dominguez, and now of Carlos Hank Gonzalez.

Homero Tovilla, member of the group of 12 deputies which challenged the Chamber leadership of Augusto Gomez Villanueva in November 1976, and voted against a decree bill of Luis Echeverria; he will return to the Chamber, nominated to represent the third district of Chiapas. Another one of those 12 will also return: Rafael Ocegueguera Ramos, representing the fifth district of Sinaloa.

Returning as representatives of the Federal District will be: Pedro Luis Bartilotti Perea, of the "Romans" group at the time of Martinez Dominguez, and Everardo Gamiz Fernandez, who comes from a position leading the PRI in Tabasco.

Carlos Maquiavelo Martin del Campom, a federal deputy in 1976-79 and current secretary of the government of Enrique Velasco Ibarra; he will represent Guanajuato in the Chamber of Deputies again.

Alberto Lugo Gil, now a senator, national leader of the CNOP and twice a federal deputy, will exchange his seat for a chair.

José Madrid Sauza, a former Secretariat of Government official, twice a deputy, who is considered a politician's politician, is a candidate for deputy

representing Jalisco, and has been cited as the one most viable for replacing Luis M. Farias in the Chamber leadership.

Other Jaliscans who will return as federal deputies are: Leopoldo Hernandez Martida, for the third time. Jose Luis Martinez, an academician from the language institution, former director of the INBA, former feature writer in Mexico City and director of the Economic Cultural Fund. The current federal deputy, Guadalupe Gomez Maganda, daughter of Alejandro, governor of Guerrero, whose powers disappeared despite the fact that he had contested the first government report of Miguel Aleman in 1947, was nominated as a candidate for senator representing that state. Her alternate: Ruben Figueroa Alcocer, also a federal deputy in 1979-82, and son of the well-known former governor.

Luis Danton Rodriguez, former director of IEPES [Institute of Political, Economic and Social Studies], removed from office through the maneuvers of Carlos Sansores Perez, current director of government in the Secretariat of Government, will be a federal deputy for the third time, representing Guanajuato.

Yolanda Senties de Ballesteros, daughter of Octavio Senties Gomez, former teacher in the Federal District and former leader of the Chamber of Deputies, currently a federal deputy, will occupy a seat representing the State of Mexico.

Returning to represent that state as federal deputies will be: Hugo Diaz Velazquez (1976-79); Julio Zamora Batiz (1976-79), former ambassador to Nicaragua; Jose Luis Garcia Garcia (1976-79), former municipal president of Nezahualcoyotl; Waldardo Herrera Gomez Tagle (1976-79); and Arturo Martinez Legorreta.

Heriberto Mora Plancarte, a candidate for senator representing Michoacan, has been a deputy several times; an employee of the Chamber for years, he arrives by way of a political-bureaucratic tradition. His running mate: Antonio Martinez Baez, a prominent constitutionalist and also a former deputy.

Another from Michoacan who will return as a federal deputy: Raul Lemus Garcia (1976-79). Juan Salgado Brito will do so representing Morelos; representing Coahuila will be Sacramento Jofre, for his third time; representing Queretaro will be Ernesto Alfonso Maldonado (1976-79); representing Sonora will be Ricardo Estillo; and representing Tamaulipas will be Martha Chavez Padron, twice a deputy and now a senator, who will exchange her seat for a chair.

Candidates for senator representing Oaxaca: Heladio Ramirez, who was a federal deputy (1976-79) and contested (he asked for his name in gold letters) the last government report of Luis Echeverria; and the writer Andres Henestrosa, an academician of the language institution, and twice a deputy. Also returning as a federal deputy representing that state will be Jose Estefan Acar (1970-73).

For Cervera Pacheco, national leader of the CNC [National Peasant Confederation], leaving his seat and will take a chair. Similarly, Oscar Ramirez Minjares, another national leader of the CNC, who holds a seat representing Chihuahua as an alternate, will move to the Chamber of Deputies.

Present federal deputy, Rafael Cervantes Acuna, will join with Arturo Romo on Senate ticket representing Zacatecas. Cervantes Acuna is an Army major and

has served as assistant secretary to Alfonso Corona del Rosal since he was chief of the Federal District Department.

The family does not reward merit in legislative battles alone:

Mariano Alcoltzin, private secretary to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, director of IEPES, was nominated a candidate for federal deputy representing Hidalgo; Jose Carreno Carlon, a journalist and director of publicity for IEPES, for the Federal District; and Ricardo Cavazos, one of the many IEPES assistant directors, for Nuevo Leon.

Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, chief clerk of the PRI, and banking colleague of Miguel de la Madrid, was nominated a candidate for senator representing Hidalgo. It is claimed that he will join the cabinet. His alternate: Ernesto Gil Elorduy, currently a federal deputy.

Hugo V. Margain, Mexican ambassador to the United States, and secretary of finance and public credit at the end of the Diaz Ordaz government (at the behest of Luis Echeverria), and for the first 3 years of the following 6-year term. At that time, he was Miguel de la Madrid's chief. A fall from a horse (that was the official explanation) brought him to the Mexican Embassy in London. He was nominated a candidate for senator representing the Federal District, although it is not known whether he was ever a militant in the PRI.

Raul Salinas Solano, secretary of industry and commerce under Lopez Mateos, current director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute and father of the IEPES director, is on the Senate ticket representing Nuevo Leon.

Raul Castellano, political adviser to the PRI candidate for the presidency, whose tutor he was during the latter's years as a secondary school student, was named a candidate for senator representing Coahuila.

In San Luis Potosi, there is a battle of rivals: Gonzalo Martinez Corbala, former ambassador to Cuba and Chile, and Jose Antonio Padilla Segura, secretary of communications under Diaz Ordaz, director of Blast Furnaces of Mexico under Echeverria and director of CONALEP [National School for Technical Education] under the present government. Both are candidates for senator.

One more: Raul Enriquez Palomec, a candidate for deputy representing Oaxaca, former director of Voca [Vocational School] 5 in 1968, accused by the students of that institution of being a sponsor of "idiots" (PROCESO No 21, of March 1977); of whom it was remarked by Carlos Sansores Perez that his star "will very soon be shining high in the firmament of national politics."

Two professional soccer players on the "Tigers" and "Stripes" teams had to sweat it out for a tie: Luis Eugenio Todd, former rector of the UANL [Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon], head of the institution's soccer team, notorious for his disputes with the umpires on the field and an official in the government of Martinez Dominguez; and Alberto Santos de Hoyos, a prominent cockfighting promoter and former head of the "Monterrey" club, with a storming passage through the Mexican Soccer Federation, will be deputies representing Nuevo Leon.

There are other ways of cutting a rock:

Jose Humberto Silva Ochoa, rector of the Autonomous University of Colima, for deputy representing that state. Ernesto Millan Escalante, deputy director of Banobras, for senator representing Sinaloa. Jorge Dzib, general secretary of the government of Campeche, for deputy. Enoch Cancino, general secretary of the government of Chiapas, for deputy. Haydee Erendira Villalobos, chief clerk of the government of Jalisco, for deputy. Hector Ixtlahuac, private secretary to the governor of Jalisco, for deputy. Alberto Eduardo Villanueva Sansores, former chief clerk of the government of Quintana Roo, for senator. Gerardo Ramos Romo, chief clerk of the government of San Luis Potosi, for deputy. Luis Hector Ochoa, former private secretary to Alejandro Carrillo Marcor, then governor of Sonora, for deputy. Hector Vazquez Paredes, general secretary of the government of Tlaxcala, for senator; and a business attorney, Mariano Pina Olaya, for deputy representing Puebla. Sammy David, director of government political investigations, for deputy representing Chiapas. Manlio Fabio Beltrones, secretary to the under-secretary of government, Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, for deputy representing Sonora. Also, Kochitl Llarena de Guillen, wife of the assistant secretary to Ojeda Paullada, for deputy representing the Federal District. Perla Alicia Sanchez de Ruiz Almada, wife of the current Sinaloa senator, Gilberto Ruiz Almada, for deputy representing the Federal District. Manuel Osante Lopez, an elocution student of Jose Munoz Cota, for deputy representing the Federal District. Enrique Fernandez Martinez, of Manuel Bartlet's team, for deputy representing Guanajuato. Jesus Salazar Toledano, a perpetual "yearner" since the time of Corona del Rosal, to whom "the revolution finally did justice." Americo Villarreal, former under-secretary of water resources, said to be a friend of the presidential candidate, for senator representing Tamaulipas.

And at the last minute, there was included Luis Javier Solana, former coodinator of news media for the Presidency of the Republic, whose plan to regulate the right to information did not go beyond that, as a candidate for deputy representing the 12th district of Puebla, where Efrain Trujeque was already "safe" and was sacrificed. Also possibly going to the Chamber of Deputies are Francisco Galindo Musa, son of Francisco Galindo Ochoa, the present coordinator of news media for the Presidency of the Republic, representing Jalisco, and Nezahualcoyotl de la Vega, head of the Radio and Television Industry Workers Union who, when asked whether he would uphold the right to information, replied: "I shall never uphold it nor attack it, but quite the contrary."



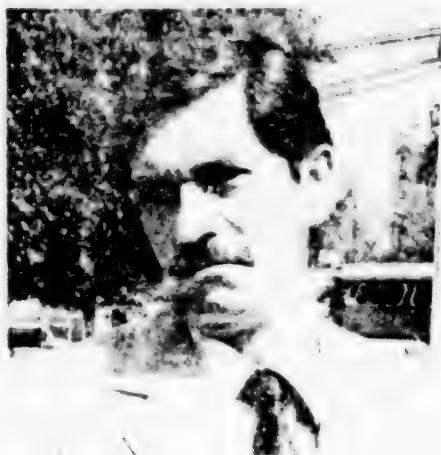
Silvia Hernandez

Silvia Hernandez



Manzanilla Shaffer

Victor Manzanilla Shaffer



Ramon Martinez Martin



Roberto Casillas Hernandez



Jorge Diaz Serrano



Agustin Telles Cruces

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COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

CHURCHMEN ON PREDICAMENT OF PRIESTS, GUATEMALAN REFUGEES

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 28 May 82 p 5-A

[Article by Elena Gallegos, special envoy]

[Text] Tapachula, Chiapas, 27 March, (OEM)--Dozens of priests and churchmen have been threatened and persecuted by the Guatemalan national guard who accuse them of supporting the rebels. Many ministers of the church are missing and it has come out that many others are dead.

This complaint was made by the bishop of Tapachula, Msgr Juvenal Porcayo Uribe, who added that at least a couple of weeks before the military coup, Mexican priests who were trying to find out the status of some churchmen in various Guatemalan provinces were denied entry.

The bishop reported that a provisional committee for aid to refugees has already been set up in Chiapas and that up to now eight camps have been opened in the San Cristobal de las Casas diocese which is under Msgr Samuel Ruiz Garcia.

He stressed that this does not in any way mean that he is pursuing political objectives or that the church is protecting or helping the revolutionaries. "It is merely that we are doing our duty of feeding the hungry and providing drink to the thirsty."

On the other hand, the priest of Hidalgo, Chiapas, Father Manuel Gomez, said that the frontier parish priests are afraid because a couple of weeks ago a group of Guatemalans murdered Father Hipolito Cervantes whom they tortured to death with the excuse that he allowed Salvadoran and Guatemalan peasants and immigrants to spend the night in his church.

Likewise, since up to now there has been no clarification of the raid on the Marist brothers' home in Comitan, the Catholic priests feel it is dangerous to help the refugees.

The Marist home is well known among the peasants of the region because when they are in need they are given lodging and food free of charge.

However, Father Gomez said that those incidents will not cause the priests to stop providing shelter to those who ask for it, "since we only feed them and allow them to sleep in a hall or a room which we have available."

He said that the flow of immigrants has lessened during the last 2 days and it is believed that this is because of a great show of force, according to those who manage to get through, made by the national guard in Guatemala.

Bishop Porcayo mentioned that the fact that shelters are set up for those who escape the violent conditions in their home towns does not mean anything illegal is being done, "We do not wish to oppose the government in any way. We are not violating any law and instead we are responding to the most basic of human feelings."

He explained that the flow of refugees is growing and is uncontrollable and that in the main towns of the area there are hundreds of them, including those hiding in private homes.

"As human beings and Christians, we cannot just watch them suffer persecution and lack of food and work. We have to help them, whoever they are, without regard to beliefs or ideology. One cannot put conditions on charity."

He also handed out a statement signed by five Mexican bishops of the "Pacifico Sur" pastoral region, among whom is Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal.

This document states that thousands of peasants and Indians from Guatemala--with whom we have more than 800 kilometers of common geographic frontier--are seeking refuge in this region in growing numbers. They are men--especially old men--women and children who arrive in deplorable physical condition, frightened and sad due to the conditions of aggression and persecution of which they say they are victims.

One can understand that they suffer terrible psychological traumas and it is said that many parents are obliged to give their children to peasants and other Mexicans in order to save their lives in such an emergency. Dozens of children arrive without parents or relatives.

Most have fled because their relatives or friends have been murdered and tortured or because their homes, property and crops have been burned. They cannot even return to their country because those who have attempted to rescue their belongings have met death or are missing.

They hide in the mountains and have been given hospitality of the Mexican peasants. They work in coffee and banana plantations but they are forced to work for unfair wages.

For these reasons, they must be given emergency assistance to buy clothes, medication, food and lodging.

He said that it is possible to set up in Mexico mechanisms for providing economic assistance which will not cause the plight of the poor Mexicans to deteriorate as a result of the presence of refugees.

He made clear that this assistance is not given in a search for personal prestige or ideological, political or economic manipulations. International organizations such as the United Nations are contributing to the support of these camps.

In conclusion, Bishop Porcayo said that there is much speculation as to the number of priests assassinated in Guatemala. He said that the assassinations are a fact and as such he is forced to denounce them.

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

GUATEMALAN TROOPS CONTINUE TO CROSS BORDER

Clearings Cut

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 5 Apr 82 pp 14-17

[Article by Ignacio Ramirez]

[Text] Marques de Comillas, Chiapas--In this region, the Mexican Republic's deepest thrust toward the southeast, national sovereignty has been violated and continues to be violated by Guatemalan "Kaibiles," [special anti-guerrilla forces] whose principal base of military operations in this area is to be found at Pipiles, at a point where the Salinas and La Pasion Rivers meet and become the Usumacinta River, the border between Mexico and Guatemala.

Testimonies gathered by the PROCESO correspondent--accompanied by Gandelaria Rodriguez Sosa, correspondent of the Tuxtla Gutierrez newspaper, NUMERO UNO--in various localities of the region, right in the heart of the jungle, which could only be reached in cayucos [small Indian boats] and motorboats, after a long trip by air, confirm the infiltration of Guatemalan soldiers into Mexican territory, in an unending search for guerrillas.

Here are some of the reports:

--Just opposite Pipiles, the Guatemalan soldiers have cleared off 1 hectare of the Chiapas jungle as a precaution against a guerrilla attack. The clearing operation was reported by the highest authorities of the 31st military region, with headquarters in Tuxtla, and by the Bocalacantun detachment, which is located 25 kilometers from Pipiles.

Along the entire border belt, planes of the Guatemalan air force conduct nighttime inspection flights over Mexican territory, with only one order: shoot to kill if anything looks suspicious.

For 3 years the "Kaibiles" have been entering Mexico in pursuit of Guatemalan refugees, on the pretext of seeking supplies. They have been seen in Benemerito de las Americas, Puerto Rico, Galazia, Reforma Agraria, Roberto Barrios and Boca de Chajul, among other Chiapas towns.

Prior to the announcement canceling the visit of Miguel de la Madrid to Rio de Oro, which was called off in mid-March, a white and blue helicopter

of the Guatemalan Air Force, with registration number TG-DOW, swooped out of the sky and terrorized the town.

There are many reports by natives, mainly mestizos, and inhabitants of the region--there is talk of persons who have vanished and also of persons who have been assassinated--who are being harassed because of alleged protection of guerrillas and the existence of training camps, which have not been confirmed independently of tortures in the migratory pass of Ixcan.

Daniel Maza Escalante, a second lieutenant in the Mexican army, 23 years of age, a graduate of the Military College, who commands the Bocalacantun military detachment, second-in-command Jose Guadalupe Arellano Castro and several of the 16 soldiers who make up the detachment reported and corroborated the clearing of 1 hectare of the Chiapas jungle by the "Kaibiles," as well as the overflights by airplanes of the Guatemalan Air Force:

"Just opposite Pipiles," Maza Escalante said, "the Guatemalan soldiers cleared part of the Mexican jungle, on the pretext that they might be attacked at that point. We reported the incident; and Gen Alberto Quintanar Lopez, commander of the 31st military region, came here. We conducted an inspection trip with him and showed him the clearing. The Secretariat of National Defense was notified immediately."

The five-line, handwritten radiogram sent to the Secretariat of Defense reads in part as follows: "A Guatemalan lieutenant named Ramirez disclaimed responsibility, saying that three Mexicans had cleared the jungle area."

However, the townspeople of Caoba, who live in this part of the jungle, gave testimony to the effect that the clearing was the work of the "Kaibiles," who were identified by their "leopard-green" uniforms. The Benemerito de las Americas authorities, headed by Camerino Hernandez, one of the town's two municipal agents, said that the clearing operation was permitted by Joaquin Rodriguez Parroquia and Lisandro Paniagua Gordillo, local political bosses, who have a clandestine landing strip in Caoba, from which they deal in contraband tortoises which they buy for 300 pesos and resell for 1,200 pesos in Tenosique, Tabasco.

Jose Guadalupe Arellano Castro also reported night overflights by Guatemalan planes on the Mexican side of the border region. And he repeated the appeal to the Marques de Comillas inhabitants, which during a tour of the region he made an entreaty: send military reinforcements. The commander also suggested a fence on the border at least to deny the "Kaibiles" access by land.

(One night, while we were encamped and having supper with the military detachment on the bank of the Lacantun River, Arellano Castro asked for silence. "Listen," he said, "that is a Guatemalan airplane." He said that there was no doubt about it, because Mexican light planes which transport merchandise--cacao, principally--fly during the day; and their points of arrival and departure are in the jungle, never on the border.)

Both military men--Maza Escalante and Arellano Castro--agreed that the situation was different, very different, 3 years ago, as normal migratory passage was permitted on any border. "However, lately the situation in Guatemala has worsened."

The Bocalacantun military detachment has been assigned there 10 years. And the nearest detachment in Ixcan is dozens of kilometers away. In those localities, there has been a steady increase in the number of refugees, since a confrontation between guerrillas and troops in September 1981 in the Guatemalan cooperative of "El Arbolito."

In the face of tortures and mistreatment of the natives and inhabitants of the region--there are people here from Oaxaca, Guerrero, Veracruz and even Sinaloa "looking for a piece of land"--the Guatemalan lieutenant named Ramirez and the Mexican lieutenant, Salvador Gomez Martinez, were replaced by Maza Escalante for Mexico and 2d Lt Carias for Guatemala.

However, the people continue to be terror stricken. And this in large measure is due to lack of air control. Luis Hernandez Davila, treasurer of the "Julian Sabines" Cooperatives Union, which included 13 communities in the Marques de Comillas area, confirmed the fear of its inhabitants. And he reported the registration number, TG-DOW, of the Guatemalan Air Force helicopter which swooped down on Pico de Oro, days before the scheduled visit of Miguel de la Madrid, which was canceled.

The common report here is: "Attacks and disappearances" at the hands of the Guatemalan "Kaibiles." On Zaragoza Island, 15 kilometers from Pipiles, three brothers--Castulo, Erasto and Saul Jimenez--live with their respective families. To hear an account of the detention of the first two brothers and the son of the second, Ezequiel, 5 years of age, we had to travel on the Usumacinta River for 6 hours.

Castulo gave this account:

"At 1100 hours on Saturday, 13 March, we were riding in my motorboat, 'Maria Bonita,' Erasto, his son, Ezequiel, and I. When we reached Pipiles, we had to report. We were immediately detained because the Guatemalan soldiers had intercepted a letter from my father in which he had advised us that he would be unable to accompany us, as he had to go to Pice do Oro on another matter. As soon as we reached the military detachment, we were tied up and beaten. They said we had guerrilla training camps and arms. They left the child without food; and when he cried, they offered him a piece of bread but not before having asked him whether his father had any pistols; the poor little fellow did nothing but cry. They kicked us repeatedly; look at the marks. They released Erasto the following day so that he could bring back the names and places where we allegedly were hiding guerrillas, under threat of death if he were to say anything; afterward he told me that he was going to report the incident to the Mexican lieutenant, the Benemerito military agent and the Tuxtla authorities. They gave me food once a day, a few beans and one tortilla. I went to the latrine tied up and escorted by the soldiers. Then they took me back to the detachment's dump where I

were detained. I was beaten at the slightest move; I could not even lift a finger. And every time anyone came in to report, they hid me and the child behind a pile of cement so that no one would know we were there. Every little while, the Guatemalan lieutenant, a blond with a mustache, kept at me with: "Are you going to talk, you son of a bitch?" And the kicks, sir, the kicks. He was very angry because earlier other detained Mexicans had escaped through the jungle. After 7 days in this situation, a Colonel Poptum arrived, from Peten Department, I learned, and they released me and my little nephew, with threats of death if I reported that I had been detained. Sir, we are from Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca; and 6 months ago we came to Benemerito in search of a piece of land. Since November 1981, we have been on this island where we have our plot of land; we plant a little corn and beans so we can live. That is not a crime, is it? We are working our Mexican land. Why do those Kaibiles beat us that way?"

The following account was given by Juan Villasenor, a native of Guerrero and a resident of Benemerito de las Americas:

"At the end of August 1981, on the bank of the Usumacinta River, at the level of the El Arbolito Cooperative, Peten Department, Guatemala, my brothers, Tomas and Javier, 16 and 11 years old, and their Guatemalan friend, Jorge Tenas, crossed the river. They were going to take down a wire fence, which was the property of Jorge's family. They were doing this when soldiers from the other side of the river came upon the scene, captured them and took several hammers from them. They told the soldiers they were there to take down the wire fence, as they were thinking of selling it. They were taken to the Bella Guatemala Cooperative, about 3 kilometers away. They were questioned all day long. At about 2000 hours, they were ordered into a boat so that they could be taken to Pipiles, that is, here upstream. Frightened, my brothers jumped into the river to save their lives. The soldiers shot at them; and only Javier, thanks to his being a good swimmer, got away. According to what he told us later, every time he came up for air, he heard gunshots but then he submerged again. He managed to cross the river and waited on a beach until dawn. He walked 6 kilometers downstream where our parents live. My other brother, Federico, and I requested the help of the previous Mexican lieutenant; however, he told us that he did not get involved in such problems and that we should stay away from those people because the same thing was going to happen to us. The Benemerito municipal agent refused to make a report. And the municipal president of Ocosingo kept waiting 12 days to give us this paper. See, it says Investigation No. 16/982. We learned nothing of the Guatemalan boy, as the "Kaibiles" took him away, nor of my brother, Tomas. We think he has been eaten by the crocodiles."

Juan Alvarez Tapia, president of the Surveillance Council of the Zamora Cooperative, said that several of his workers were taken away by the Guatemala militia which entered that town, located 35 kilometers from Pipiles.

"We hear gunshots from there," he said. "We live in great fear because the Guatemalan soldiers question us and threaten us. Some townspeople have left here because of this, and I am not lying when I tell you that because of my

family I will sell everything I have at the first opportunity and also leave."

There were endless accounts of persons who had been harassed by the "Kaibiles," such as Cesar Carrillo, of the state Directorate of Planning and Budgeting for Economic Development, or Sebastian Nava de la Cruz, who has been working 13 years for the International Commission for Waters and Boundaries, the top civilian Mexican authority in the Usumacinta zone of navigation. According to him, without giving any reason, they confiscated the transmitter which was installed on his old motor launch. "Neither my entreaties nor my identification papers as a Mexican official were of any use," he complained.

Tomas Hernandez Canseco, Fausto Marroquin Perez and Luis Hernandez Davila, president, secretary and treasurer of the "Julian Sabines" Cooperatives Union, which includes 13 Comillas cooperative communities--Flor de Cacao, America Libre, San Isidro, Reforma Agraria, Pico de Oro and Benemerito de las Americas, among others, also reported on the tense situation prevailing in the region.

"For our part," they explained, "we have attempted to help the Guatemalan refugees. In reality, we people of Chiapas have benefited, as there is a shortage of manpower, particularly now that we are implementing a cacao-planting program on 2,500 hectares and another African palm program for cooking oil. They are granted a 30-day work permit and are paid minimum wages, the same as the Mexicans, 150 pesos per day; however, most of them do piecework and earn 250 pesos, in addition to the fact they are covered in the amount of three-quarters of their wages in the event they become physically disabled.

"The Guatemalan refugees come here after fleeing from their country's towns and cooperatives, principally from San Fernando, La Libertad, La Providencia, San Juan de Dios, El Ceibal, El Prado, Santa Marta, La Florida and Los Laureles, surrounding Chinanja, San Diego and Tortugas, and also from the departments of Peten and Progreso. They enter the country throughout the Marques de Comillas region."

A desperate plea: "Please bring food," punctuated the last farewell, after we had spent 8 days with the townspeople and refugees of this region in the rugged Chiapas jungle, avoiding the constant danger of the massacuatas (coatis), without sleeping thanks to the sarahuatos (chimpanzees) that howl in chorus at night, sick with fever and vomiting, at 42 degrees environmental temperature--malaria? dengue?--we miraculously departed in a light airplane which had landed there because of an interruption in flights due to the eruption of the Pichucalco volcano. We returned to civilization.

Possibility of Special Committee

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 5 Apr 82 pp 14-15

[Article by Gerardo Galarza]

[Text] In light of contradictory reports about the southern border situation and different figures on the influx of Guatemalan immigrants, the Superior Commission of the Chamber of Deputies is studying the possibility of forming a special committee of legislators to gather information on this subject.

According to Luis Ortiz Monasterio, president of the National Commission for Aid to Refugees (CNAR), there are no serious irregularities on the Guatemalan border and the situation is calm. During a meeting with deputies who are members of the Foreign Relations Committee, he said that from December to date between 5,000 and 6,000 Guatemalans have entered the country. They have promised to return to their places of origin at the beginning of the next agricultural season.

In a related connection, during a press conference on Tuesday, 30 March, the National Antirepression Front (FNCR) said that paramilitary bands are operating in Chiapas which "are responsible for the death of Father Hipolito Cervantes Arceo" and the persecution of Guatemalan refugees and that there are incursions by the Guatemalan Army into Mexican territory.

Fernando Pineda and Patricia Guerra, members of the Democratic Union of Newsmen and the 21 January Democratic Federation of Guatemala, respectively, also stated at the press conference that their country's and paramilitary groups are making incursions into Mexican territory to seek and repress those who are fleeing from violence. They also accused Guatemalan troops of being the perpetrators of the assassination of Father Cervantes Arceo.

Pineda and Guerra said that there are over 25,000 refugees on the southern border, who have obtained temporary migratory permits to work in agricultural activities. They requested the Mexican Government to grant "territorial asylum" to the temporary refugees because their permits are only for 3 months.

Julio Sabines Gutierrez, governor of Chiapas, told PROCESO (No 281), "The Guatemalan Army is mistreating the Mexican Indian people of the border belt of San Blas and Usumacinta. The problem of Central American refugees, particularly Guatemalans and Salvadorans, is becoming increasingly conflictual."

Chiapas governor said that "as far as I know," the assassination of Father Cervantes Arceo was the work of three Guatemalans.

Assistant Erasmo Jimenez Hernandez, of the "Julio Sabines" Cooperatives Union, spoke to Arturo Ramirez, a PROCESO reporter, about the manner in which Indians were harassed by Guatemalan troops in Pipiles.

The following week, during an interview with this weekly, the secretary of national defense, Gen Felix Galvan Lopez, confirmed that the Guatemalan Army detachment in Pipiles was torturing Mexican natives; and, therefore, he would have to talk with the Guatemalan minister of defense to resolve the problem.

Galvan Lopez said that units of the 31st military region "have not entered Guatemalan troops in Mexican territory." With regard to reports that Guatemalan troops are violating national sovereignty, he said, "Those are the opinions of some persons; however, I do not believe they have more information than I. Not only am I not going to permit our fellow countrymen to be mistreated but I am not going to allow Guatemalan troops to enter our territory."

In Manila, 29 March, Alejandro Sobarzo, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies--after a meeting with Ortiz Monasterio--said that the Superior Committee of that legislative organization would study the proposal of deputies Manuel Stephens Garcia (PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico]) and Juan Ugarte Cortez (PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]) to appoint a special committee of legislators to investigate the real situation at the Mexican-Guatemalan border and to gather information on the influx of Guatemalan refugees, primarily.

According to a bulletin issued by the Chamber of Deputies, at that meeting Ortiz Monasterio rejected the report of a large influx of Guatemalans into Mexico and added that the admission of immigrants is duly controlled by the civilian and military authorities.

Later, the president of the CNAR said that there are no serious irregularities on the country's southern border, although he did not rule out the possibility of mistreatment, incursions of Guatemalan Army troops or acts of provocation. He added that an FM-8 migratory category had been established, namely "border visitor," for the Guatemalans who are entering Mexico.

Visit to Guatemalan Base

Authenticity PROCESO in Spanish 5 Apr 82 pp 16-17

{See also Report section}

[REDACTED] Pipiles, Guatemala--We PROCESO reporters experienced a night of terror here in a secret Guatemalan military detachment, in the midst of a bazooka battery and machine gun pits.

We obtained the "Death Pass" to obtain living testimonies of the torture of the Mexican Indians and inhabitants of the Marques de Comillas region. No one wanted us to come there. There was great risk; the Mexican Army didn't want to accompany us. We left behind us tape recorders, notebooks, cameras, and medical supplies which newsman Jorge Diaz Navarro

had the good sense to give us; the only things we took were a camera, Social Security IDs and a good supply of bravery, in the company of the Captain, Valente.

After sailing for 13 hours in 2 days, in stormy weather, we arrive at the military camp which is situated at a point where the Salinas and La Pasion Rivers come together. The camp consists of two dormitories made of wood and palm leaves, foxholes, palapas, a latrine and a Guatemalan flag which from afar serves as a point of reference. There are 105 "Kaibiles," some of whom are adolescents, almost children. From this base the 25 strategic military posts situated along the rivers are controlled, stretching from the Guatemalan town of Sayaxche, 4 hours away by motorboat, to the Lacantun River, and the airfield which is installed 15 minutes from this site.

Anyone who gets this far, a mandatory passage for trade by motorboat--which is now diminished because of the devaluation of the peso: before, the quetzal was worth 32.50 pesos; now, it is worth 65 pesos--has to report to the Guatemalan military personnel, due to the lack of a Mexican military detachment, according to the inhabitants of the area. If that were not enough, the water currents carry boats toward the Guatemalan side. In addition, the river is very shallow on the Mexican side which makes navigation impossible. Anyone who tries to pass by without reporting is fired upon immediately: that is the order.

We watch us arrive with telescopes. Valente ties up the boat, and we get off. We climb the rope ladder under the scrutinizing eyes of the "Kaibiles." At the top, there is a 1-meter square cement-bag checkpoint manned by a "green leopard"; the questioning begins there.

[Question] Who are you?

[Answer] Mexican tourists, newlyweds, you know, on our honeymoon.

[Question] Where do you come from?

[Answer] From Pico de Oro, in passage.

[Question] Your ID papers...

At Corias arrives--we learned later that is his name--he is 22 and the commander of the detachment. The questioning continues; although they are not convinced, they allow us to proceed.

"Certainly, may we take a photo of the jungle?"

"No problem."

He takes it in front of us the Chiapas jungle has been cut back. I change the movie film and reuse a stir. "We have to be alert. How do we know if there are not surviving a bomb?"

Then he says that the situation in his country is serious: "I took part in the coup which overthrew Lucas Garcia. We young officers were tired of so many problems. We wanted to put an end to them once and for all, to put an end to those communist dogs who come from Cuba."

We move forward. Upon our return, after visiting Zaragoza Island, it is already dark; here nightfall is at 1830 hours and in a short time nothing is visible, except when there is a full moon. Once again we report to the detachment.

[Question] Why are you getting back so late?

[Answer] The motorboat broke down.

We request lodging and are offered it for lack of another solution. We take a few steps, then one of the dogs they have there bites Valente. Another bites my companion, Candelaria.

"You can see that they are well trained. Right?"

They give us supper--we had not even eaten--one egg, one tortilla and slices of fried platano. Nothing more. From there we go to the lieutenant's room. Maps of the Mexican border region, a tape recorder, magazines, novels and a small stable on which there is a radio transmitter:

"Capricorn calling. Do you read me? Capricorn Calling. Answer..." They turned off the set at that point.

The lieutenant gets up and shouts, "Everybody but the relief squad to bed! Keep your machine gun handy and sleep well. Everybody, everybody with a grenade in his hand. At the slightest movement, shoot to kill!"

"[...] people will not go out for any reason. Whatever happens, call me, no matter what time it is. Besides, I rarely sleep. Those are orders, and it would be very dangerous not to obey them."

At the moment next to that of the lieutenant where there are two mattresses on the floor; all around there are boxes of military equipment marked "Made in the U.S.A." "Made in Korea."

Very often, the lieutenant gets up watchfully, with a lantern in his hand. It begins to rain; it occurs to me to turn over and instantly they load their weapons; they do so periodically, at the slightest noise. At the first roll of thunder, which is heard in the distance, the first bazooka shell falls. It explodes with an echo in the middle of the jungle, shaking the ground.

"What was that?"

"A thunderclap, lieutenant."

"Fire at any movement."

Another thunderclap and another bazooka explosion; another thunderclap and another bazooka explosion. This is repeated only six times. They could exhaust their ammunition by firing at thunderclaps and lightning flashes.

Even the dogs remain silent.

Day breaks: 0500 hours.

"Do not be afraid, you know, anyone can be a guerrilla. They tell me there were problems here; that is why I was brought in. They say that the other lieutenant would get angry but so would the Mexican soldiers. The only thing I demand is that their papers be in order, and there will be no problem."

With the sun's rays, the dogs begin to bark again.

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COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

GLANCE AT YUCATAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Apr 82 Sec A pp 4, 24, 26

[From "Political Fronts" column by Humberto Aranda]

[Excerpt] Brief Notes

According to a report from correspondent Evilacio Pereyra, in Yucatan Governor Graciliano Alpuche Pinzon is still giving cause for talk. On this occasion, however, the comments are favorable for the governor because, in one way or another, he has expressed opposition to using the funds for which he is responsible to finance the campaigns of the candidates for deputy and senator, who have had a disappointment in this regard. It so happens that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] candidates, headed by Renato Vega Amador, the PRI delegate, went to greet Alpuche Pinzon, in order to voice their support for him. They were following the precedent whereby, in previous governments, the candidates for deputy and senator had obtained economic assistance from the governors in office precisely on the occasion of expressions of backing such as that received by Alpuche Pinzon. Twenty years ago, Luis Torres Mesias, after having received the candidates, ordered that each one be given 20,000 pesos. In his time, Carlos Loret de Mola gave them 100,000 pesos; and, on a more recent date, Francisco Luna Kan ordered that they be given what they wanted. But Alpuche Pinzon confined himself to thanking them for the support and wishing them success in their campaigns....

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COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BIG BOOST IN SALARIES FOR YUCATAN OFFICIALS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Mar 82 pp 4-A, 23-A, 26-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Excerpt] After 4 hours of deliberation, the Yucatan Congress approved the budget which was sent to the Chamber by the government headed by Gen Graciliano Alpuche Pinzon. The budget is 3.279 billion pesos, which represents an increase of almost 1 billion pesos over last year's budget.

This increase caused over seven deputies to demand explanations from Jose Luis Diaz Ramos, the government's secretary of planning and development. The most pointed questions addressed to the official were asked by National Action deputies who wanted to know how it was possible for the state governor who last year had a salary of 45,000 pesos to now receive 95,000 pesos, which represents an increase of 111 percent. Also, with regard to the secretary general of government, who previously had a salary of 25,000 pesos, why is he now to receive 75,000 pesos? They went on enumerating many cases of exorbitant salary increases for officials at a time when the federal government only recommended increases of 10, 20 and 30 percent.

The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] deputy, Nerio Torres Ortiz, asked how it was possible for the chief of the state police who last year had a salary of 20,000 pesos to now have a salary of 50,000 pesos. Similary, the principal officers of that organization were given very considerable increases, including the secretaries who were raised from 7,000 pesos to 15,000 pesos.

Enrique Aguilar Aguilar, of the Finance Committee, explained that the draft budget had been approved because the officials had to live in proper style; however, he also clarified the fact that with the raises granted they have no right to seek income from any other source, that is, they have no right to commit a robbery because their emoluments are proper. There was a scepticism with regard to the deputy's point of view because it is well known how public officials come into office and how they leave it.

The chief of planning and development gave a complicated explanation that was full of technical terms and almost incomprehensible concepts of the rationale for the budget which, as expected, had to be approved by deputies who up until last year were only earning 15,000 pesos but now will be receiving 25,000 pesos.

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PROCESS TO SELECT LEFTIST CANDIDATE BEGINS IN APRIL

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p D-12

[Text] The left will open the electoral process on 1 April, holding primaries to select a single candidate for November, 1982. The resolution was approved in principle at a meeting yesterday of the members of National Coordination, but it is subject to confirmation by some of the leaders of the 10 groups in that organization and will have to be ratified at another meeting to be held by the National Coordination group itself on Wednesday of next week.

Representatives of MAS [Movement for Socialism], MEP [People's Electoral Movement], PCV [Communist Party of Venezuela], the Socialist League, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]-Moleiro, MIR-Americo, Vanguard, GAR [Revolutionary Action Groups]-Iribarren, EPA and GAR-Unitary met for 3 hours at noon yesterday in the office of the second vice president of the Chamber of Deputies to discuss the schedule for the time remaining in the total process, which will culminate in the primaries to select the Left's single presidential candidate. In addition ideas will be exchanged and candidates will be examined for membership on the National Electoral Commission, which is responsible for oversight, control and scrutiny of the primaries.

Jesus Paz Galarraga, secretary general of the People's Electoral Movement, proposed that the filing period open on 1 April and close on 30 September, 1982; that the month of October be used to review such registration, and that the primary elections be held sometime in November, 1982.

Deputy Rafael Guerra, representing MAS, suggested that the possibility be studied of cutting short the periods proposed by the MEP in order to hold the primaries in October.

Representatives of the New Alternative and the Communist Party proposed to the other members of the National Coordination of the Left that they review the possibility that preregistration will be approved, in order to have such registration for the primaries. This proposal, although initially rejected by the Coordination group, would guarantee the speeding-up of the primary elections, since without the requirement for prior filing, the waiting periods in the electoral process could be substantially reduced. However, the New Alternative and PCV representative explained that their proposal did not in any way imply abandonment of the beginning of the timetable which sets the opening date of the filing period for 1 April 1982.

In summary, all the parties and groups which are members of the Coordination organization remained to study the timetable presented by MAS, but they approved as a preliminary matter that filing must begin on the aforementioned date in order not to delay any longer the process leading to the leftist primaries. The National Electoral Commission, which will be in control of the entire primary process, will be made up of 11 members: two representatives for each of the four candidates and two for the Socialist League [sic].

Although some details are still pending regarding representation of the League and of the independent sector, some names were mentioned at yesterday's meeting of persons who will represent different presidential candidates on the aforementioned Electoral Commission.

Teodoro Petkoff will be represented by Victor D'Paola and Lucas Leal as principals, and by Vicente Gonzalez and Ivan Gutierrez as alternates.

Salom Meza Espinoze will be represented by Luis Salas and Antonio Hernandez Fonseca.

Meises Moleiro will be represented by Vicente Martinez and Edgar Paredes Pizani.

The parties and groups which will support Jose Vicente Rangel have not yet announced the names of their representatives before the National Electoral Commission.

The Socialist League named Orlando Yajure and Edgar Ortiz as principal and alternate, respectively.

Finally, among the independents have appeared the names of Pedro Rincon Gutierrez, Rafael Pizani, Miguel Acosta Saignes and Gen (ret) Francisco Gutierrez.

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MAS SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES LEFTIST UNITY

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Mar 82 p D-5

[Report on interview with Pompeyo Marquez, secretary general of MAS [Movement for Socialism], by Leopoldo Linares; date and place not given]

[Text] No possibility of reconciliation between PCV and MAS views, he says.

Pompeyo Marquez claimed the right of MAS and of Teodoro Petkoff to head the unified Left in the 1983 elections. He emphasized that MAS members are for unity, but there are others in the Leftist National Coordination who do not think so; they have said so publicly; "they are the elements who support Jose Vicente Rangel."

The secretary general of MAS spoke at length with our reporter about the unity plan and the difficulties which have surfaced within the Venezuelan Left. He pointed out that his party is often branded as powerful, but that it is no lie, but rather a fact, that MAS is the main leftist force in the country. For this reason in Marquez's opinion, it has the organizational ability and the human resources to develop the socialist political plan beyond 1983.

"Today," Marquez asserted, "MAS is the main organized leftist force, and all those who attack, slander, deprecate or weaken it do little service to unity and to the country's socialist future."

"Why do your people think that Petkoff should be the only candidate of the Left?"

"Because he would have supporting him a nationally organized base to give continuity, after 1983, to the entire socialist political plan. It is not a problem of personalities; it is one of organized forces. It is not only an electoral question, or a one-shot deal at the outcome, but a plan whose core is the reconstruction of the country."

When the reporter intimated that that evaluation could be considered a desire to cast the primaries aside as a suitable method for selecting the candidate, Senator Marquez said:

"We are entering an interesting period from the point of view of preparation for the primaries. But we must say, with absolute political loyalty, the primaries are one method for obtaining the single candidacy, but that goal must be achieved in the course of these few months, independently of what may happen to the method. If one fails, we will have to look for another, and still another. The fact that the Left may come up with a single candidate for the national elections in 1983, then, is something which cannot be ignored.

The reporter reminds Senator Marquez that this problem of unity and antiunity elements appears to be a never-ending story. In addition, an outstanding MAS leader recently stated quite frankly in public that the primaries, besides being a naive device, are like something out of Arabian Nights because of their cost--between 2 and 3 million bolivars. Our interviewee did not lose his self-possession, and gave this explanation:

"That is another subject. There are those who do not want the primaries. And they do not want them because of the future, of what will happen after December, 1983. The national leadership of MAS is sure of the single candidacy. This is unanimous within MAS; our differences are with regard to the method, and what some of our people consider onerous from the economic point of view and detrimental from the point of view of the political climate is lost. But they definitely come together on the suitability of the single candidacy, and they know what a diversity of candidates in the leftist camp would bring in its wake. But, we repeat, there are others who do not think so, and this is in the Coordination group.

"And who would those others be who do not think so?"

"They have said so publicly; they are elements who support Jose Vincente Rangel. They believe it is better for them to go with the Rangel candidacy. Their survival is at stake. For that reason it is false to draw a comparison between attitudes which we could call opposed to the primaries and to the unity represented by groups which support Rangel, and those who within MAS show their disagreement only with the primaries as a method. The impartial observer can see that it is not the same thing. Besides, the national leadership of MAS has confirmed that we are ready for the primaries."

Pompeyo Marquez also discussed with the reporter MAS's initial struggle with its other leftist allies with respect to the alternative plan which was to be presented to the country in view of the social democratic (AD) and social Christian (COPEI) options. In Marquez's opinion, many people were thinking of a "left-center" group, and even encouraged the hope of an alliance with the URD [Democratic Republican Union]. Now, Marquez added, events have fully proved the error of those positions and also, that MAS was right in categorically emphasizing the socialist proposal, with a clear and precise message concerning the choice which should be offered to the country.

"The Coordination group," he said later, "has discussed these differences. At the end of the debate the conclusion is eloquent: there can be no reconciliation, for example, between the views of the PCV and the MAS. The outcome is

firm: to transfer any substantial differences to the primaries, and to take the results of the election into consideration. The winning candidate then, must have a specific weight in the formation of a program; it must be he--as the Socialist League proposed--who presents the draft of the final program.

Finally, Marquez asked that attacks and low blows be stopped, giving way to discussion in which ideas and argument prevail.

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER UNDERLINES RANGEL'S POPULARITY

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 27 Mar 82 p D-7

[Interview with Luis Miquilena, campaign manager for socialist presidential candidate Jose Vicente Rangel, by Leopoldo Linares; date and place not given]

[Text] Luis Miquilena, the veteran union and political leader, reappears this time as campaign manager for socialist presidential candidate Jose Vicente Rangel. In an interview with EL NACIONAL, he said that "MAS [Movement for Socialism], as an organized apparatus, is a myth," and that Rangel will win the primaries because, among other things, half the MAS members will vote for him.

Miquilena spoke at length about Jose Vicente Rangel's personality and the organizations which support him in his bid to represent the unified Left in the forthcoming national elections. He pointed out that in addition to the groups within the New Alternative, Rangel has the support of Vanguard and EPA, as well as of numerous independent persons and popular organizations. Among these last he mentioned the group of popular singers, headed by Ali Primera, and the communal movement, which has a vast influence in the districts of West Caracas. Miquilena asserted that Rangel's candidacy has organized and structured commands in the country's 23 electoral districts, and that at this time they are working hard to bring them to all the districts, municipalities and numerous bases which support him. He also announced that their strength will be tested on 5 May in Caracas, when Rangel supporters will hold their first meeting at the New Circus of Caracas.

When we asked Miquilena to tell us his chief reasons for thinking that Rangel will defeat Teodoro Petkoff (MAS) in the internal struggle for the single leftist candidacy, he said:

"I can give you three very concrete reasons: 1) The unquestionable and verifiable advances made in the organizational field by the people who support Rangel throughout the country. Today we are a national structure, which we were not a year ago, with an establishment and presence throughout Venezuela. 2) Only Rangel's candidacy has succeeded in attracting support outside his own initial group among the Left. On the other hand, Petkoff does not have any other support besides what they call the MAS "machine." 3) Finally, a very important factor: most of the MAS membership are actively

supporting Rangel's candidacy, because they know that this formula may represent compliance with the MAS program.

At the beginning, Luis Miquilena referred to the problem which arose within the Coordination group both because of the program arrangements and because of the implementation of the primaries. He recalled that all the elements which support Jose Vicente Rangel have come out, in principle, for political agreement, in order to achieve an early understanding in the matter of candidacy.

"However," Miquilena continued, "given the irrationality which sometimes characterizes the Left, we were caught in a web of proposals, and we finally settled on the method we considered the lesser evil; that is, primaries with advance filing. For us, the primaries would not have been the lesser evil, they would have been a possible, viable and very practical method, if we had accepted the MEP [People's Electoral Movement] proposal, that is, open primaries. This would have avoided the long process of organizing a huge apparatus for registering those who will finally participate in the primaries."

[Question] "Is there time to carry out this primary process now, or will it be necessary to seek political agreement once again?"

[Answer] "I believe that in the present circumstances, if we really want to continue with the primary method, the only way to shorten the process and not continue to be bogged down as we have been to date is to make a change and return to the holding of primaries without prior registration. But I do not think this will be possible at this time, because there are some elements, specifically the members of MAS, who are stubbornly opposed to taking this road. Therefore it seems to me that we must take the road to understanding and political agreement."

[Question] "And what do you think of Senator Pompeyo Marquez's recent statements in which he claims the right of MAS and teodoro Petkoff to represent the unified Left in 1983?"

[Answer] "MAS has been claiming it has the right to establish the rules of the game in this electoral process of the Venezuelan Left. First it argued that it came out first in the last election. This claim was easily refuted, since the MEP received quite a significant number of votes, greater than what MAS received, but it still did not try to use this to claim a ruling position in future arrangements. Now MAS comes along with the apparatus argument, saying that it maintains the apparatus and that it is the only nationally established and organized force, and that this gives it the right to be the party which chooses the candidate and also the program which must be accepted by the rest of the Left."

[Question] "And what do you people think of that argument?"

[Answer] "It is a trick. There is no truth to it. In the first place, because that business about the "apparatus" is a myth, because MAS never was an apparatus nor a structured and organized force, as some pretend. MAS was a movement which had a great impact on the country because of its freshness,

because it had had as its standard-bearer in the presidential elections in which it participated a man of such national importance as Jose Vicente Rangel, and as a result it was able to achieve an organization which included several sectors of the Venezuelan people, who saw in him a hope and a message. I believe in all sincerity that today, MAS, as an organization is inferior, from the point of view of organization and of influence on the masses, to the movement which supports the candidacy of Jose Vicente Rangel.

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